



North Carolina Forest Stewardship

News

Summer
2012

Good steward

Floyd honored for forest efforts

By David Irvine
Daily Dispatch Writer
Article Courtesy of the Daily Dispatch

Preston Floyd owns several farms in Vance County. Most of his 900 acres are in timber.

Managing that much land takes effort and persistence. But he doesn't do it alone.

A major source of assistance is the N.C. Forest Stewardship Program, a cooperative effort to help landowners achieve their objectives for their forests.

On Friday, May 11, the N.C. Forest Service presented Floyd a certificate acknowledging his Forest Stewardship efforts on his 245-acre "Tower Tract" and 100-acre "Van Dyke Farm Tract."

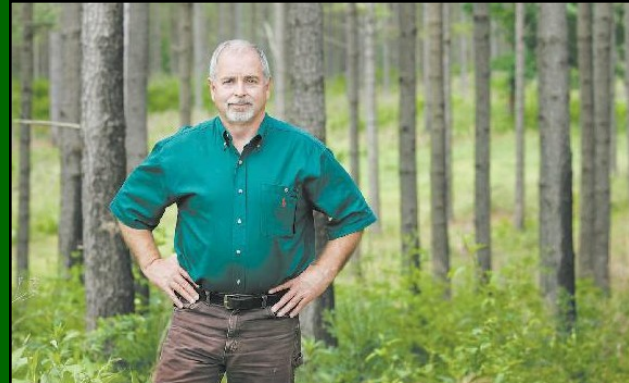
Vance County Ranger Brad Manning presented the certificate, which gave the reason for the award: "In recognition of outstanding resource management and exemplary improvements to the wildlife, soil and water, timber, recreation and aesthetics of North Carolina's forests for this and future generations."

Landowners have very diverse uses for forest land. The Forest Stewardship program is designed to help them manage their properties for multiple benefits, whether for timber, wildlife, soil and water, or recreation.

Accompanying Manning for the presentation were Christian Hirni, management ranger for the district, and Tyler Warren, assistant ranger.

"I want to acknowledge these guys," Floyd said, indicating the three Forest Service representatives. "If I have a question, they give me advice and — what's more important — assistance."

Floyd described part of his process in managing his timber. It's an ongoing job. Young trees are cropped for pulp wood, he said. "Then I go in and take out any crooked or damaged trees for chip-n-saw."



Preston Floyd received Stewardship certification from the North Carolina Forest Service for his farms near Kittrell.



North Carolina Forest Service rangers Brad Manning (center) and Tyler Warren (right) presented Preston Floyd with Stewardship certification for his farms near Kittrell.

PHOTOS BY
DAILY DISPATCH
Mark Dolejs

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Chip-n-saw is a technique to produce chips for pulpwood as well as small dimension lumber. The remaining trees will be harvested when they are 20-plus years old. Exactly when, depends on the market and other factors, he said.

The Forest Stewardship Program involves cooperation between the landowner and the Forest Service. The program is voluntary. Participants receive recognition for their achievements in promoting total forest resource management.

It starts with a plan tailored to the landowner's goals for the property. Activities are scheduled to enhance the forest for wildlife, soil and water quality, timber production, recreational opportunities and natural beauty. The plan follows a schedule that is compatible with the owner's resources and ability to conduct the work.

Stewardship practices do not need to be expensive to be beneficial. The agency makes recommendations and the landowner decides which activities to pursue. The recommendations focus on practical modifications to existing conditions rather than costly investment.

Floyd also gives attention to other aspects of his property. He has sowed seed for switch grass along the road side.

"It puts down roots 10 feet," he said, making it a good deterrent to erosion. It will grow high enough to make it an inviting habitat for rabbits and other small wildlife.

North Carolina's forests play a significant role in the state's economy. More than \$17 billion worth of manufactured forest products are shipped annually. In addition, recreation, travel and tourism contribute more than \$10 billion to the state's economy each year.

To learn more about the N.C. Forest Stewardship Program visit the N.C. Forest Service online at <http://ncforestservic.gov> and following links under "Managing Your Forest" or contact Manning at (252) 438-7249 or Stewardship Coordinator Les Hunter at (919) 857-4833.

Contact the writer at dirvine@hendersondispatch.com.

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Silviculture & Fire

Forest Biomass Retention and Harvesting Guidelines for the Southeast

Forest Guild releases new essential guidelines for the sustainable harvest of wood from forests for energy production

The Forest Guild's new guidelines for sustainable harvest of forest biomass in the Southeast details how to produce renewable energy from the region's forests while still protecting them for future generations.

"The Forest Guild guidelines show a much needed middle path. We don't have to forfeit environmental protection to produce renewable energy and create jobs," explained Mike DeBonis, Forest Guild Executive Director.

Developing domestic, renewable sources of energy is a national priority, and in the Southeast, forest biomass is a potential source of renewable energy and fuel that also supports local economies. Already, the Southeast is exporting thousands of tons of forest biomass to Europe in the form of wood pellets to be burned instead of coal. Forecasts for forest bioenergy suggest harvesting levels could grow by over 100 percent by 2050. These harvests could also add to ecological stress caused by an expanding population, a warming climate, and spread of exotic plants and animals. The Forest Guild used the best available science and professional judgment of on-the-ground foresters from the region to identify practices that ensure the forest can support wildlife, maintain biodiversity, provide clean water, sequester carbon, protect soil productivity, and continue to produce income for the long term.

The guidelines were developed by a working group of 16 Forest Guild members from the Southeast and aided by Forest Guild staff. Together the working group identified practical and flexible targets for biomass retention. The guidelines identify the forest conditions that call for specific amounts of logging residues to remain in the forest during biomass harvest as well as the numbers and sizes of dead and dying standing trees that are necessary to maintain wildlife habitat. [Read the guidelines here.](#)



An Evening Burn to Restore Mountain Forests

Posted by [zhoyle](#)

The [North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission](#) (NCWRC) and the Southern Research Station (SRS) have been cooperating for over 10 years to study prescribed burning in the Southern Appalachian Mountains on state-owned Green River Game Land in Polk County, NC.

The afternoon and evening of January 31, crews burned study plots on the Green River Game Land site for the third time since 2003. Fire crews from the Forest Service, NCWRC, and the North Carolina Forest Service ignited ridges and fire lines to produce cool and slow-moving backing fires throughout the 60-acre study area. Crew members worked through the night to make sure that the fire was completely out.

The study, part of the [National Fire and Fire Surrogates Study](#) originally funded by the National Fire Plan and the Joint Fire Science Program, is currently supported by the [SRS Center for Forest Disturbance Science](#). It is the only study that follows changes to many parts of the Appalachian ecosystem through multiple prescribed fires.

Outdoors: Going for grouse in North Carolina mountains

By **Monica Holland**

Reprint Courtesy of the Fayetteville Observer

Deep in the mountain forests, tangles of wild grape and bitter berries draped over fallen timber create what Craig Byers calls grouse huts.

"You can find these little areas where nature's done its own clear cut," he says. "And grouse love 'em."

Having spent his entire life in western North Carolina, Byers can recall a time when clear cuts were a common forest management practice spanning the 1,091,774 acres of national forests in mountain counties.

Cuts would tear away the canopy of dense foliage created by mature trees and allow sunlight to reach the woodland floor, sparking new growth of wild vines and thick brush that provide food and cover for upland game.

The resulting field day for grouse peaked, according to small-game biologist John Wooding, in the 1980s.

"Back in the 1920s and early 30s when they went through and logged the mountains, there was a lot of fire following that and then the vegetation began to recover over a 30 to 50-year period," he says. "It was incredible habitat for grouse because they like that scruffy, brushy habitat."

"In the past 20 or 30 years as the forest has matured, the quantity of that brushy stuff has gone way down."

Mountain hunters old enough to have toted a shotgun into the thicket 30 years ago have seen the best of N.C. grouse hunting. But there's still some decent action to be had.

Byers is a hunting guide for Curtis Wright Outfitters, based in Asheville. He's had upwards of 20 flushes in a strong single day of hunting, but the standard is closer to three to six flushes on a half-day with clients. Finding the birds isn't a sure thing, but it isn't always an issue. Hitting them, on the other hand, can be tough.

Fast flyers

Even if hunters scare up a group of grouse 10 times, they may only have one or two opportunities to shoot.

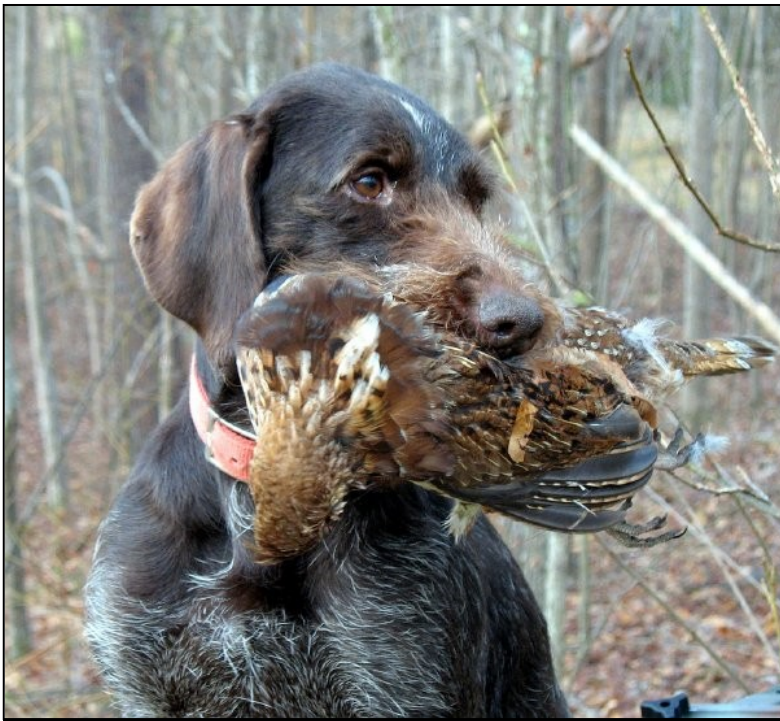
"It's the most difficult upland bird to hunt," Byers says. "This year we've probably shot 20 times with clients, maybe 25, and we haven't cut a feather. But I can take out a dozen quail, and they fly fast, but we'll probably shoot all 12 of those."

The wings of the ruffed grouse make a thunderous sound in the quiet woods when they take off as a predator, in this case a hunter, gets too close. "It's so loud your instinct is to back up, and that gives them a second or two to get up in



Contributed photo

Craig Byers and his pointer, Baby Girl, try to flush grouse during a hunt in western N.C. Byers looks for clear cuts that are about six years old for optimal ruffed grouse habitat, who often feed on wild grapes and bitter berries.



Contributed photo

Bird dogs, such as this Verein Deutsch Drahthaar, point out, flush and retrieve upland game birds such as ruffed grouse.

the air and get out of there.

"The slowest point in their flight is coming off the ground. As soon as they start any forward motion, they're picking up speed. You're always shooting at a blur," Byers says.

The challenge is a draw to grouse hunters. Something about the whoosh of the takeoff is addictive and thrilling, no matter how many times one sees and hears it. Some people love the taste of the meat. And some people are happy to have a lengthy hunting span - Oct. 17-Feb. 29 this season - to get their dogs in the field.

Well-trained bird dogs point to indicate a hot scent, although grouse don't necessarily leave heavy scent because they are on the move so often. The dog holds point, allowing hunters to position themselves for a good shot. Dogs also flush and retrieve game.

Difficult terrain

Byers points out that mountain terrain is more difficult to handle than flat land, and dogs as well as hunters need to

be in good shape. And after a solid day in the field, the dog will need to rest for a day. "The dog's actually leading me," Byers says. "I'm helping her and letting her know which way to go, but she sets a pace that won't let you just go strolling through the woods."

Grouse won't be found near trails or logging roads, so be prepared to get into some thick cover. Once you're well off the beaten path, watch the dog work.

"When the dog points, that's when the game gets a little more serious," Byers says. "The birds are not going to hold very long, so we've got to get in there and get in there fast."

"You have to be on your game - know where everybody is, know where the dog is."

Gearing up

Byers recommends some safety orange on every section of the body, along with an orange cap. You want to be able to pick up that color peripherally before you go swinging your shotgun.

He also suggests lightweight, briar-proof clothing. You want to shiver when you get out of the truck. If you're not shivering, take something off, because the hunt will be fast-paced and it will speed up the heart rate.

And while birds are more difficult to find than they used to be, the U.S. Forest Service is helping out with prescribed burns. More than 2,000 acres were burned at the end of the past year, and in 2010, more than 24,000 acres were burned among N.C.'s four national forests. The burns clear competition for native plants and add nutrients back into the soil.

Along with natural clearings from tornadoes and ice storms, these burns help to create more habitat for the grouse, and more happy hunting for folks like Byers.

"It's an acquired thing to learn how to hit a bird that fast, but it's fun," he says. "I think it's the ultimate challenge."

Monica Holland can be reached at 323-4848 ext 440, or hollandm@fayobserver.com.

Cold Water for Trout

Posted by [zhoyle](#) on February 16, 2012

Joint research by SRS and the U.S. Geological Survey



The names of southern rivers—Roanoke, French Broad, Neuse, Appalachicola, Tar, Tennessee—are nothing if not evocative. As you read them, you may think first of the long human history of the area—or picture the lazy flow of summer water—but the rivers and streams of the southeastern United States are actually better known worldwide for the unique and diverse aquatic ecosystems they harbor.

Species in these ecosystems—especially those dependent on cold temperatures such as native eastern brook trout—are already stressed by recurring droughts and will undoubtedly be impacted further by climate change. Early predictions suggest that rising temperatures could potentially reduce habitat for highly prized native trout species to a few mountain refuges.

Resource managers in the Southeast are more and more challenged to balance human demands for water quantity and quality with the habitat needs of freshwater aquatic species. Managers have access to national databases and models from multiple sources, but lack both regional data and a framework for addressing species and site-specific questions. To develop strategies and to make decisions designed to minimize the effects of climate change on both humans and aquatic species, managers need more precise science-based tools.

Read more: <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/compass/2012/02/16/cold-water-for-trout/>

Invasive Species Updates

Removing Privet Helps Restore Native Bee Populations

Posted by [zhoyle](#)

When plants travel the world, they escape the checks and balances of their ancestral ecosystems and can multiply without bounds, competing with native plants for light, nutrients, and water. Do nonnative invasive plants also disrupt native bee populations?

[Jim Hanula](#), research entomologist with the [SRS Insects, Diseases and Invasive Plants unit](#), explored this question by comparing bee diversity and abundance in forests where Chinese privet had been removed, had never invaded, and where it still dominated the shrubby layer. Hanula found that removing Chinese privet provided immediate benefits for native pollinators, even when there were no specific efforts to restore native plant communities.

[Chinese privet \(*Ligustrum sinens*\)](#), first brought to the United States as an ornamental shrub, now infests over 2.5 million acres of public land across 12 southern states and countless more acres of privately owned land, roadsides, and forested urban areas. Hanula and his team removed privet from study sites in the Piedmont area of Georgia using chainsaws, mulching, and herbicides. They found that within a year, bee populations were larger and more diverse. In fact, areas where privet had been removed by mulching hosted average bee populations of 418 per plot, while areas where privet had not been removed had average populations of only 35 bees per plot. The bee populations in treated plots continued to soar, and by 2007, bee abundance and diversity in all the treated sites was similar to that in forests that had never been invaded by privet.

Read more: <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/compass/2012/02/14/removing-privet-helps-restore-native-bee-populations/>



Laurel wilt found in Brunswick County

The N.C. Forest Service confirmed this February that laurel wilt, a devastating disease of redbay and other plants in the laurel family, has been identified in Brunswick County near the communities of Sandy Creek and Northwest.

The disease has been identified across the Southeast in portions of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. In North Carolina it was discovered in Bladen, Columbus, Sampson and Pender counties in 2011.

Laurel wilt is introduced into the tree by the non-native redbay ambrosia beetle. The female beetle bores through the bark of the tree, carrying the fungus on her mouthparts. Once the beetle is inside the tree, she makes tunnels where she will lay eggs. The fungal spores grow in these tunnels, blocking the movement of water from tree roots and causing the tree to wilt and eventually die from lack of water. This fungus is extremely fast-acting, and trees typically will die within a month of infection.

Symptoms of laurel wilt disease include drooping reddish or purplish foliage. Evidence of redbay ambrosia beetle attack may be found in the main stem; often strings of chewed wood called frass toothpicks can be seen sticking out of the entry holes. Removal of tree bark reveals black streaking in the outer wood. It is believed the pest can travel about 20 miles a year naturally, but can spread more quickly when fungus-carrying beetles are moved in wood, such as firewood, to new areas. Homeowners with dead redbay trees are encouraged to keep cut trees on their property. Dead trees should not be transported off site to a landfill or off site to be used as firewood. Proper disposal of redbay includes leaving wood on site, cutting or chipping wood on site, or burning wood on site in compliance with local and state ordinances. In areas where burning is allowed, a permit can be obtained from the N.C. Forest Service through a local burn permit agent, a county ranger's office, or online at <http://ncforestsERVICE.gov/>. Just look for "Burn Permits" under the quick links section.

In North Carolina, sassafras, pondberry, pondspice, swampbay and spicebush also fall in the laurel family and could be affected by this disease.

This destructive pest was first discovered in Georgia in 2002. It is believed the fungus and the redbay ambrosia beetle arrived in the United States in wooden crating material from Southeast Asia.

To learn more about laurel wilt, visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/foresthealth/laurelwilt/index.shtml>, or call Jason Moan, forest health monitoring coordinator with the N.C. Forest Service, at 919-553-6178, ext. 223.

Using a Wasp to Catch a Beetle: The Quest to Save Ash Trees

By **Stone Ng**

For nearly a decade, a tiny alien menace, a beetle known as the emerald ash borer, has been destroying some of the nation's most iconic native trees. Now researchers are honing a new method that uses wasps to ferret out these invasive beetles. The technique could help prevent the spreading of the emerald ash borer, as well as benefit other imperiled plants in the future, both in the U.S. and abroad. The emerald ash borer is a small, green beetle of the Buprestidae family, a group



Research & Landowner Opportunities

Forest Certification

Forest certification is a relatively new development since the 1990's, and deals not with the final product, but the practice of forestry, growth of the product, harvesting of the product, and ecological impacts associated with the harvesting of the product (Klingberg 2003). Forest certification is gaining widespread attention by a variety of stakeholders including state agencies, forest industry, environmental organizations, professional foresters, loggers, government policy makers, social activists, and the general public (Viana et al. 1996; Mater 1999).

Forest certification has been promoted as a tool for broader public acceptance of forest management and for achieving environmental, social, and economic benefits on certified forests (Moore and Cabbage, 2008). The concept of forest certification has emerged as a management tool to attain sustainable forestry using a voluntary market approach rather than a regulatory approach.

Four major 3rd-party certification systems are active in North Carolina. These organizations are [the Sustainable Forestry Initiative](#) (SFI), [the Forest Stewardship Council](#) (FSC), [Green Tag](#), and [the American Tree Farm System](#) (ATFS). Of the four, SFI and ATFS fall under [the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification](#) (PEFC), the world's largest forest certification umbrella organization endorsing national and/or regional forest certification standards that meet its rigorous sustainable forest management criteria.

[The North Carolina SFI's State Implementation Committee website](#) provides state-level information and contacts for that program. The North Carolina Forest Service's [Forest Stewardship Program](#) currently offers internal (as opposed to 3rd-party) certification. Efforts are underway to align this program with [the North Carolina Tree Farm Program](#) (state-level program of the ATFS) and eventually offer Forest Stewardship Program participants access to ATFS's 3rd party certification benefits.

[The North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services](#) has established its [NC Green Verified Wood Products Program](#). This is meant to help exporters of North Carolina timber products meet forest certification-related demands from international consumers.

Regardless of the reasons for NC landowners to enroll in forest certification systems, increased future efforts will be needed in education, outreach, training, and a collaborative effort between resource management agencies, forest industry, NGO's, and natural resource professionals to promote forest certification in North Carolina. Forest Certification may become a more important tool to many forest landowners in NC to demonstrate a commitment to forest sustainability and a long-term dedication to proper management and stewardship of our forest resources. Future opportunities may also exist to expand forest certification systems that incorporate emerging markets in ecosystems services and demand for export timber products. Group certification opportunities through third party organizations may also develop in the future.

Chapter 2(e) ("Conserving Working Forests") of [the 2010 North Carolina Forest Resources Assessment](#) provides additional details on forest certification systems and their potential implementation and importance to North Carolina's forests.

Klingberg, T. 2003. Certification of Forestry: A Small-scale Forester Perspective. In *Small-scale Forest Economics, Management and Policy*. 2(3): 409-421.

Mater, C. 1999. *Understanding Forest Certification: Answers to Key Questions*. Pinchot Institute for Conservation. 50p.

Moore, S. E. and Cabbage, F. 2008. *Forest Stewardship Council Resource Manager Certification: Program Impacts and Prospects*. Poster presented at the 6th Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals Conference, May 19-23, 2008, Madison, WI (abstract published).

Viana, V. M.; Jamison, E.; Donovan, R. Z.; Elliot, C.; and Gholz, H. 1996. *Certification of Forest Products: Issues and Perspectives*. Island Press, Washington, D.C. 261p.

U.S. Forest Service research used in new, invasive-plant software

iPhone application helps people identify harmful, nonnative plants

U.S. Forest Service research and funding have led to the development of a free software application that will help people identify and control destructive invasive plants in Southern forests and grasslands.

Development of the application is part of the Forest Service's multi-faceted strategy to reduce the impact of nonnative species – animals, pathogens and plants.

These foreign invaders deplete water supplies, poison wildlife and livestock, and damage property in urban and rural areas at a cost of about \$138 billion annually. Congongrass, nonnative privets, autumn olive and tallowtree are among the most common plants plaguing the South.

“Invasive plants are one of the greatest threats to our forests and grasslands,” said Leslie Weldon, deputy chief for National Forest System. “They damage our environment and economy by destroying native trees and plants and limiting access to recreation areas. This new application provides an opportunity for more land owners, land managers and concerned citizens to join the fight in protecting our lands.”

The [Invasive Plants in Southern Forests: Identification and Management](#) application is currently only compatible with Apple products – iPad, iPhone and iPod Touch – and available through [iTunes](#). The software provides photos and information that allow users to identify the 56 nonnative plants and plant groups currently invading the forests of the 13 Southern states. Versions for other operating systems are being explored.

A grant from the [Southern Research Station](#) funded the application, which was developed by the University of Georgia Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. The software is based on Southern Research Station [field](#) and [management](#) invasive plant guides.

Like the guides, the app divides invasive plants into trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, ferns and forbs and provides identification keys, photos and management recommendations. App users also get simple, on-the-spot options for treating invasive plants.

Since their release, more than 200,000 copies of the [Southern Research Station](#) guides have been distributed. The plant app is expected to inform many more people about the impact of invasive plants and get them involved in eradication efforts.

“Ultimately we hope this app will give people a new tool to go out and identify invasive plants and map their occurrence,” said Southern Research Station Research Ecologist James Miller, who co-authored the application's source guides. “Effective control relies on understanding of species including their biology, their preferred habitats, and how they spread across the landscape. Those are important first steps in stopping and containing the invasions of harmful nonnative plants.”

Future versions of the application will include the ability to directly report new sightings of select species into the Georgia Center's [Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System](#), which provides a quick way to submit photos and report new sightings of invasive plants on the spot throughout the United States.

Suggestions for improving the application can be emailed to the app's creator, Chuck Barger, at cbarger@uga.edu or submitted to the iTunes Website.

For more information on the threat of invasive species, go to the Forest Service's Invasive Species Program page at <http://www.fs.fed.us/invasivespecies/>

The mission of the [U.S. Forest Service](#) is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. Recreational activities on our lands contribute \$14.5 billion annually to the U.S. economy. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world.

Study: Depictions of Nature in Children's Books Down By Half Since 1960



Sara Novak
[Living / Culture](#)

When you settled into bed at night as a child, can you remember what your parents read to you? What were your favorite children's books and did you pass those vintage classics onto your kids?

Where the Wilds Are By Maurice Sendak and *Winnie the Pooh* by A. A. Milne were certainly among my favorites. Creatures, animals, and humans seemed to live in a world where any separation could be lifted through a child's imagination.



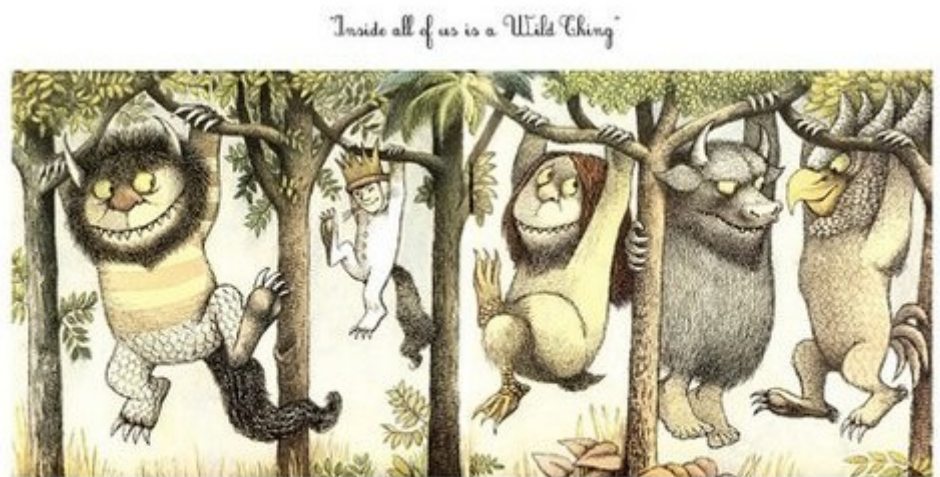
[normanack/CC BY 2.0](#)

But a new study published in the journal *Sociological Inquiry* is showing that children are becoming increasingly isolated from nature, which is evident from its depiction in children's books. An analysis of the [296 Caldecott Medal Award Winners](#) from 1938-2008, found that overtime depictions of nature show up half as much as depictions of man-made environments. This listing of esteemed children's classics show that before 1960 depictions of the natural world and depictions of the manmade world were about equal.

An Up Close Look at the Caldecott Winners

Here's a listing of some of the esteemed children's books from 1938-1960:

- **1938:** *Animals of the Bible, A Picture Book*, illustrated by Dorothy P. Lathrop; text: selected by Helen Dean Fish
- **1942:** *Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey
- **1944:** *Many Moons*, illustrated by Louis Slobodkin; text: James Thurber
- **1946:** *The Rooster Crows* by Maud & Miska Petersham
- **1947:** *The Little Island*, illustrated by Leonard Weisgard; text: Golden MacDonald, pseud. [Margaret Wise Brown]
- **1948:** *White Snow, Bright Snow*, illustrated by Roger Duvoisin; text: Alvin Tresselt
- **1949:** *The Big Snow* by Berta & Elmer Hader
- **1950:** *Song of the Swallows* by Leo Politi
- **1951:** *The Egg Tree* by Katherine Milhous



"Inside all of us is a Wild Thing"

"And Max, the king of all wild things, was lonely and wanted to be where someone loved him best of all."

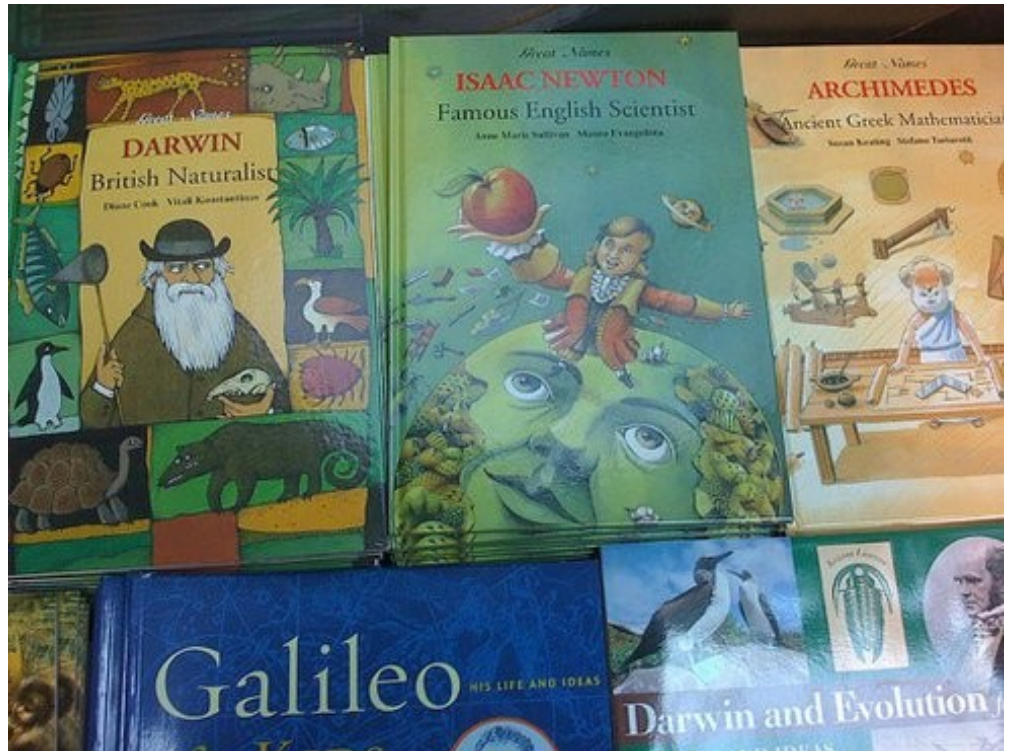
Maurice Sendak

[.Va i♥ven. Arp/CC BY 2.0](#)

Caldecott Winners After 1960

After 1960 the number of books about animals, playing outside, and nature seems to diminish as seen below:

- **1960:** *Nine Days to Christmas*, illustrated by Marie Hall Ets; text: Marie Hall Ets and Aurora Labastida
- **1969:** *The Fool of the World and the Flying Ship*, illustrated by Uri Shulevitz; text: retold by Arthur Ransome
- **1986:** *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg
- **1993:** *Mirette on the High Wire* by Emily Arnold McCully
- **1996:** *Officer Buckle and Gloria* by Peggy Rathmann
- **2000:** *Joseph Had a Little Overcoat* by Simms Taback
- **2001:** *So You Want to Be President?* Illustrated by David Small; text by Judith St. George
- **2004:** *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers* by Mordicai Gerstein



Sam Felder/CC BY-SA 2.0

Children Increasingly Isolated From Nature

After 1960, the emphasis seems to move from the natural world surrounding us, to it being a much smaller part of a child's perspective. While a newer genre, environmentalism in children's books, has sprung up, mainstream illustrations of the natural world are less and less available to our kids. It shows a separation and a lack of understanding of the planet.

“These findings suggest that today’s generation of children are not being socialized, at least through this source, toward an understanding and appreciation of the natural world and the place of humans within it,” the authors wrote, reported on [Yale Environment 360](#).

If you're interested in receiving the Forest Stewardship News contact Forest Stewardship Coordinator Les Hunter at (919) 857-4833 or via email at les.hunter@ncagr.gov. You can also contact Jennifer Rall at (919) 857-4849 or via email at jennifer.rall@ncagr.gov.

"First in Forestry" License Plate

In recognition of the importance of forestry in North Carolina and the state's status as the birthplace of professional forestry in the United States, the N.C. General Assembly has approved a special "First in Forestry" license plate. \$20 of the \$30 fee collected for each plate will go toward forestry education programs in the state.

The plates are available for purchase from the NC Division of Motor Vehicles online at <http://www.ncdot.gov/dmv/> and at DMV offices throughout the state.



People

Jeff Marshburn named January 2012 Employee of the Month

Duplin County forest ranger Jeff Marshburn was recently honored as the NCDA&CS Employee of the Month for January 2012. In recognition of Marshburn's achievement, Assistant Commissioner David Smith presented him with a plaque and department shirt at a recent meeting in Raleigh.

The past few months have been full of change for Jeff Marshburn and the Duplin County office. Through resignations and retirements, Marshburn found himself having to do the work of four positions. Despite this adversity, he has continued to provide the people of Duplin County with services they expect from the N.C. Forest Service. Here's an excerpt from his recommendation letter:

For Jeff, the only thing that matters at the end of the day is that the citizens of his county get the best service possible, and he has continued to provide that to the best of his ability. In what should be a frantic and stressful time for Jeff, he has not crumbled. Jeff has maintained his usual level head and pleasant attitude, and prioritized his job responsibilities to maximize efficiency.



Assistant Commissioner David Smith, right, presents Jeff Marshburn, of the N.C. Forest Service, with the NCDA&CS Employee of the Month award.

Kristin Bail Selected as the New Forest Supervisor for the National Forests in North Carolina

ATLANTA (April 11, 2012) – The Southern Region of the U.S. Forest Service announced today the selection of Kristin Bail as the new Forest Supervisor of the National Forests in North Carolina. Bail is currently the Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Coconino National Forest in Arizona. In accepting this position she is returning to a part of the country she loves.

“I am honored for the opportunity to live and work in the beautiful mountains and coast of North Carolina. I look forward to working with our forest employees, our state and local partners, and the conservation community to care for these diverse and special National Forests.”



Bail brings a wealth of experience gleaned from over 27 years of federal service with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Forest Service in Oregon, Arizona, and Washington, D.C. In addition to her current role Deputy Forest Supervisor for the Coconino National Forest she has previously served in the BLM national business and fiscal resources section and as the BLM national policy and program lead for the 37 national monuments and national conservation areas.

Maurice and Laura Hull - 2011 NC Tree Farmers of the Year

Maurice and Laura Hull of Semora, NC, were named the 2011 Tree Farmers of the Year as their farm, Waukegan Farms, was honored as the top Tree Farm in North Carolina. The farm is 875 acres in total, including 750 acres of well managed forestland, three fish ponds and a wild fowl water impoundment, 100 acres of wildlife food plots, 46 hunting stands and blinds and approximately 18 miles of riding trails. The farm is home to abundant wildlife, especially deer and turkey. “The Hull property represents a perfect balance of the four emphases of the American Tree Farm System: wood, water, wildlife and recreation,” stated David Halley, the chair of the selection team. The Hulls live in High Point, but spend many weekends at the farm working on the property and entertaining guests. “We congratulate Maurice and Laura Hull for their selection for this prestigious honor,” commented Jim Long, a member of the Caswell Area Forestry Association. “This is a first for the northern Piedmont area of our state and provides a wonderful example of what can be accomplished through good forest management.”



Laura and Maurice Hull were named the 2011 NC Tree Farmers of the Year.

North Carolina Tree Farm Program Recognizes Tree Farm Inspectors

The North Carolina Tree Farm program had two Tree Farm Inspectors earn national recognition through their inspection work. Both Matt Vincett and David Henderson received Bronze Hard Hat Awards for signing up 25 new Tree Farmers. David, the owner of Henderson Forestry Consultants in Asheboro, NC, was the North Carolina Tree Farm program’s Inspector of the Year in 2008. He is extremely active in the North Carolina program for a number of years. He has done numerous reinspections and assisted with the Tree Farm audit that was conducted by Price-Waterhouse-Coopers several years ago. Matt Vincett, a Water Quality Forester for the



(l-r) Al Weller congratulates David Henderson on earning his Bronze Hard Hat Award.

North Carolina Forest Service in Rockingham, NC, has been involved with the Tree Farm Program in North Carolina for many years. In fact, in the early 1990’s when the Tree Farm program was mothballed in North Carolina, Vincett continued to sign up new Tree Farmers working directly through the National Tree Farm office on his own. Matt was the North Carolina Tree Farm program’s Inspector of the Year in 2006. Ironically, Matt has signed up over 150 new Tree Farmers and already had a Silver and a Gold Hard Hat Award. The Bronze Hard Hat Award was long overdue and allowed him to complete his collection. “Both of these foresters have shown tremendous enthusiasm for the North Carolina Tree Farm Program and are a valuable credit to the profession and the forestry community,” stated Al Weller, who coordinates the North Carolina Tree Farm program’s inspections.



(l-r) Al Weller congratulates Matt Vincett on earning his Bronze Hard Hat Award.

Meetings

Woodland stewardship workshops planned for Western N.C.

The N.C. Forest Service is joining N.C. State University's Forestry and Environmental Outreach Program and other natural resource agencies in hosting a series of four workshops for private forest landowners in Western NC.

"The 'Woodland Steward Series: Mountains Program' is designed to educate woodland owners and managers, especially those with 20 acres or less, on the basic principles of forest stewardship," said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. "The workshop is being conducted by a team of land management experts from federal and state agencies, universities and the private sector."

The series takes place between July 18 and Aug. 17 in the Asheville area. Each workshop will be led by natural resource and land management specialists and will feature hands-on activities in the field and instruction in the classroom. Introductory information on a wide variety of land management topics will be provided.

Following is the schedule:

- "Discovering Your Land: Basic Land Management Skills," Wednesday, July 18, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Cradle of Forestry in Brevard, and Thursday, July 19, 9 a.m.-noon at the N.C. Arboretum in Asheville.
- "Native Landscaping & Water Management," Thursday, July 19, 1-4:30 p.m., and Friday, July 20, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the N.C. Arboretum.
- "Woodscaping Your Woodlands & Firewise Management," Wednesday, Aug. 15, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Thursday, Aug. 16, 9 a.m.-noon at Bent Creek Experimental Forest in Asheville.
- "Stewardship, Recreation & Liability," Thursday, Aug. 16, 1-4:30 p.m. at Bent Creek, and Friday, Aug. 17, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at the Cradle of Forestry in Brevard.

Registration is \$50 per participant per workshop and \$25 for a spouse or other family member. Woodland owners and managers are encouraged to attend one or more of the workshops according to their interests.

The deadline for registration is one week prior to each workshop, and attendance in at least three of the four workshops is required to graduate. Credit toward N.C. Environmental Education Certification is available. Please inquire about other continuing education certification.

To learn more about the series or to register, contact Addie Thornton, course coordinator, at 919-515-9563 or by email to addie_thornton@ncsu.edu. Additional information is online at www.ncsu-feop.org/woodlandstewards.

The workshops are being hosted by the N.C. Forest Service, N.C. State University's Forestry and Environmental Outreach Program, the Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association, N.C. Cooperative Extension Service, U.S. Forest Service, the Cradle of Forestry in America, the N.C. Arboretum and Bent Creek Experimental Forest.

North Carolina Tree Farm Workshops

The North Carolina Tree Farm program will conduct a workshop in the fall of 2012. All of the details have not been finalized, but this is the tentative schedule for the workshop.

A workshop will take place on Saturday, October 20, at Goose Creek State Park near Washington, NC followed by a field tour of the Weyerhaeuser Company Tree Nursery and nearby site preparation and reforestation operations.

The Tree Farm Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday October 6th at Asheville at the Biltmore Estate. The tentative plan is to tour Biltmore's forestry operation with afternoon tours of Biltmore house and gardens.

If you have any questions about these workshops or general questions about the North Carolina Tree Farm program, please contact Leslie McCormick at 919-917-8646.

The American Tree Farm System conducts webinar workshops that allows landowners to learn more about various topics through presentations on the computer. To learn more about these workshops and the upcoming topics visit <http://www.treefarmssystem.org/ATFSwebinarseries> online.