

## INTRODUCTION

LeRoy Jones  
Director, Eastern Tree Seed Laboratory  
U. S. Forest Service, Macon, Georgia

The 1966 Nurserymen's Conferences were held at the South Carolina Forestry Commission Headquarters at Columbia, South Carolina; and the Majestic Hotel in Hot Springs, Arkansas, on August 23-24, and August 30-31, respectively.

Why were meetings such as these needed? Most of the attendees were nurserymen or were very closely associated with nurseries. I need not elaborate about problems and it seems that new ones continue to arise. So, this was one reason for the meetings. We called on research workers to bring us up-to-date on their latest findings and upon many nurserymen to share their experiences -- which is valuable?

Many nurserymen are now closely connected with seed orchard programs. Raising grafting stock, grafting, transplanting, controlling pests, and many other jobs fall their way. This is new to most and there are many, many questions. There is yet no answer to a lot of them, but I'm sure some found answers at the meetings and got ideas about how and where to find others.

Changes seem to be a necessity. Seedling quality is receiving much attention. Many nurserymen size seed and are, generally, growing seedlings at a lower density. Mechanization, as an effort to compensate for the increased cost of labor, is helping us make changes.

With the increased attention to seed production areas and seed orchards, we desperately need better cone collection methods. This was discussed at the meetings. We're now hearing much about growing hardwoods. Sometimes, it seems, we hear more than the request for seedling support, but I predict the demand will continue to grow.

Outstanding participants who represented many years of experience in their respective fields were on the program. The Proceedings are papers they presented at the meetings and the discussions that followed.

\* \* \* \* \*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many thanks are due to the South Carolina Commission of Forestry, the Arkansas State Commission of Forestry, moderators, and program participants who did much to make the meetings highly successful.

## WELCOME

John R. Tiller, State Forester  
South Carolina Commission of Forestry

We certainly want to welcome all of this fine group to South Carolina and are very glad indeed that South Carolina was selected as your conference site and that all of you could be our guests.

I might tell you a few words about the State of South Carolina. History has it that Charles I of England granted this area to Robert Heath in 1629, but that Bob evidently forgot to record the deed. In 1663, Charles II re-granted the land to eight of his friends, this land including North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, and all land west of these states to the Pacific Ocean. Thus, you see some of you thought that you had left home to come to South Carolina, when actually you have never been out of the Stater

It was much later that we decided to **give** everything from the ground burning country along the coast west to the Great Smokies to Ralph Winkworth and everything from Fargo and the Okefenokee Swamp north to the red hills of Georgia to Ray Shirley. Despite all these precautions, we kept enough area so that we had four or five fires this past spring.

It is most timely that this Eastern Regional Forest Nurserymen's Conference is being held here in South Carolina. We can point to the fact that, just during the past 6 or 7 years, there has been an increase in our forest area of 275,000 acres, despite losses to rights of way and other development. This has been due almost entirely to reforestation of land retired from row crops.

Our forests products industry, not including lumber, had capital invested in 1964 totaling 6240 million. The industry provides full-time jobs for more than 36,000 workers; part-time jobs for thousands more; an annual payroll of some \$90 million; and turned out products in 1964 with a value in excess of one-half billion dollars.

Our forests are producing raw materials to industry, and not incidentally pure water for domestic and commercial use, an improved habitat for wildlife, and wholesome outdoor recreation for our citizens and visitors. We think it is a fact that growth and drain of forest products throughout the State are in balance, and that we have a healthy, stable forest economy.

What I am saying is that our forest products industry, with all its benefits to our economy, is being sustained on a half a crop of timber -- for this is what has been told us by the last three forest surveys made in South Carolina. What of the future? An appraisal of trends