

PUBLICATION

Frank A. Ter Bush
Reforestation Specialist
State and Private Forestry, Region 6
US Forest Service
Portland, Oregon

My friends (?) assigned me the topic of discussing publications. Well, what about publications? Actually, I bet most of what you know, you have learned by doing, discussing and watching others. Only some of what you know, have you picked up from your reading,

Yet, when you are in a jam, you probably search the literature. Someone may have published something pertinent. You check Tree Planters Notes, journals, The American Nurserymen, and whatever else comes to mind. In short, you check publications.

Publications exist to record experiences--yours and others. You cannot expect to find solutions to all your problems in the literature. Have you shared your solutions with others? How do you go about publication? The primary requisite is to have something to say. Each of you have something to say! Each of you have faced problems. Each have developed solutions to meet your particular need. These solutions, individual and collective, would be useful to others.

Problems

Where do you begin? I repeat, each of you have had problems. Some you have solved yourself. Some problems were solved when you modified others findings to meet your needs.

Solutions

O.K., you have had problems. You have done administrative studies. You have read the literature. You cut and fit until you have developed a solution. MAKE THIS SOLUTION A MATTER OF RECORD. This is the first step.

The record should be simple and clear. Any report should cover who, what, why, where, when, and how. It does not have to be too long. It must, however, cover the essentials. The saying that one picture is worth a thousand words is as true today as when first spoken. Glossy prints 2-1/4 X 2-1/4 inch or larger are usually required. Make such a record of your accomplishments for yourself. Leave some tracks in the file. This is the first step in sharing with others.

Publications

My primary objective is to tell you where you can place your reports. What follows lists some of the publications and organizations you could contact.

All speciality publications are constantly searching for materials. Each has a particular focus. Your first job is to determine what publications meet your needs and the needs of other nurserymen. Second you must learn what format they require of you. In some publications, this is given in each issue. In others, you will have to write for instructions.

The first publication that comes to mind is Tree Planters Notes. Peter Hoekstra and Mary Melvin are constantly asking nurserymen and rehabilitation specialists to submit material of interest. Get in touch with them. Their address is Tree Planters Notes, U.S.D.A., Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Washington, D.C. 20250. Actually, I am convinced you owe Tree Planters Notes an article. I find it difficult to believe that anyone here has not found something useful in that publication. Their articles are developed by people like yourselves and are for people like you. Give yourself and them a break. Share your triumphs and tragedies.

Edison once said that no experiment is a failure. You learn as much from your failures as from your successes. Let others know what works for you. Let others know what does not work too. What works for one, may not work well for another. This is important.

The American Society of Agricultural Engineers (A.S.A.E.)

This is a high-powered group. American agriculture leads the world in technology. When this country was established, it took 93 people on the farm to feed themselves and the seven people living in town. Today, it only takes four people on the farm to feed themselves, this Nation, and most of the rest of the world. This turnabout is due in large measure to the development of American agricultural technology.

The A.S.A.E. has two meetings each year. They are much interested in you and your problems. They are even more interested in your solutions. If you have made a breakthrough, let them know. Should they consider it of interest, they will invite you to speak at one of their meetings. Each meeting produces excellent proceedings. These make great reference material.

One of the major benefits to you and others will be their instructions to speakers. They insist on a written submission. If you receive these instructions and follow them carefully, you cannot help but develop a worthwhile publication. I have never seen anything to match their instructions to authors for simplicity and clarity. They insist on well illustrated presentations that are brief and to the point. An A.S.A.E. acceptance is a feather in your cap and a real learning experience. It benefits others with similar problems as well.

The A.S.A.E. is made up of those that design the equipment that has made the United States' agriculture great. They may well either design something for you or acquaint you with equipment you may not have known was available. Their address is:

The American Society of Agriculture Engineers
P.O. Box 4010
Saint Joseph, Missouri 49085

The American Nurseryman has National circulation. Their address is:

American Nurseryman Publications Co.
310 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60604

The Journal of Forestry is published by the Society of American Foresters. They require polished professional submissions. Some of your material might qualify. Their address is:

Society of American Foresters
5400 Grosvenor Lane
Washington, D.C. 20014

Other Publications

I put out a couple of newsletters. Forest-Gram West is intended to cover all phases of forestry. Nurseries are certainly an important part. Forest-Gram South does the same for the Southeastern United States. These addresses are:

Forest-Gram South
U.S.D.A., Forest Service
Southeastern Area
State and Private Forestry
1720 Peach Tree Road, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

Forest-Gram West
U.S.D.A., Forest Service
State and Private Forestry
P.O. Box 3623
Portland, Oregon 97208

Forestation Notes is devoted primarily to reforestation. Nurseries are where it all begins. If you have something to report, let me know.

Forest-Gram West and Forest-Gram South submissions must be very brief. You can only report that you have solved a problem in about 200 words or less. You can invite the reader to write you for details. The Forestation Note report can give the details. If the editors of any of these publications believe your material merits publication, it will certainly see the light of day.

Another route to take is to contact Forest Service Regions and Experiment Stations. Many of you have worked with people from State and Private Forestry. These folks are interested in nurseries and insect and disease control. Often they can arrange to have your work published. In Montana, northern Idaho, and the Dakotas, the man to contact is Bob Gorsuch. The Regional Office is in Missoula, Montana 59801. For Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, parts of South Dakota and eastern Wyoming, Dick Greffenius would be the man to see. His office is in Denver, Colorado 25127. For Arizona and New Mexico, Mel Hyatt would be your man. His office is in Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102. Finally for Utah, southern Idaho, western Wyoming and Nevada, you would contact Hal Michelson. The address is Federal Building, Ogden, Utah 84401.

State and Private Forestry is one arm of the Forest Service. Research is another. Forest and Range Experiment Stations are headquartered in Ogden, Fort Collins, Portland and Berkeley. No doubt some of you have worked with or met scientists from one or more of these Stations. Occasionally you will have a problem that is difficult to handle. Perhaps you could interest a Forest Service scientist in working with you on it. When the study is completed, a Technical Note or Research Paper would come out.

Do not be bashful. Get your stuff on paper. Make a record. Share it with others. If one outfit cannot use your stuff, try another!

Meetings such as these are important. It is here that you can get together with others. When you have had good luck with something, you owe it to yourself and others to share it. You would be surprised to find out how much you will gain by sharing. Publications, whether written or oral, require that you organize your material, clarify it and present it separately and directly. You will find it both beneficial and I believe enjoyable.

You may not consider yourself a speaker. You may be shy about getting up before a group. You nurserymen are not really a shy lot. I have attended many of your meetings. You are plenty vocal over a cup of coffee or glass of beer. You can be equally so when you got something to say that you are enthusiastic about and believe in.

The mechanics of publication are mere details. The main point is simply to meet and master a problem. Second to this you merely organize it and present it orally or in writing to others. With a little extra effort, you can do it equally well in print or before a group of folks interested in your work.

TRY IT, YOU'LL LIKE IT.