

Former STATE FORESTER

Pete Bond  
gave this  
TO CHAMP

Listing  
of  
Important Forest Happenings  
in Maryland

by Pete Bond

Zumbow of  
A training  
meeting of  
new foresters  
in 1979

IN THE BEGINNING

1. In 1634 the early settlers, upon arriving at the mouth of the Potomac River area, wrote, "Fine groves of trees appear, not choked with briars or bushes and undergrowth, but growing at intervals as if planted by the hand of man, so that you can drive a four horse carriage, wherever you choose, through the midst of the trees."<sup>1</sup>
2. Lord Baltimore, in 1633, wrote in his first report of the Maryland Colony - "There are a great many hickory trees and oaks so straight and tall, that beams, 60 feet long and two and a half feet wide can be made of them". The cypress trees also grow to a height of 80 feet before any branches, and three men with arms extended can barely reach around their trunks -- there are alder, ash and chestnut trees as large as these which grow in Spain, Italy and France, and cedars equaling those which Libanus boasts of."<sup>2</sup>
3. In 1794, Dr. Thomas Wright read a paper before the American Philosophical Society stating he did not believe America would ever be fully developed until the woods were cleared off to make it healthier."<sup>2</sup>
4. In 1794, Isaac Weld, Jr., an Englishman, writing about a trip from Philadelphia to Baltimore, described Americans as having "an unconquerable aversion to trees; and whenever a settlement was made, they cut away all before them without mercy: not one was spared".<sup>2</sup>
5. Great cypress swamps covered much of the lower Eastern Shore. In logging these swamps, logs and trees became buried in the mud. "Swamp mining" to retrieve these logs was one of the most unique logging industries ever witnessed in Maryland, flourishing around Whaleyville, in Worcester County about 1850.<sup>2</sup>

FORESTRY IN A CHANGING ENVIRONMENT - A BRIEF MARYLAND FOREST HISTORY\*

The Forest Service was created in 1906 when John and Robert Garrett, of the B&O Railroad, gave to the state some 1,967 acres of woodland in Garrett County for use as a demonstration of forest management. This became the beginning of the old Board of Forestry, an agency in the Geologic Survey. Since then it has been a part of the University of Maryland, the former Board of Natural Resources, and presently an agency of the Department of Natural Resources.

During these many years the Forest Service has provided a variety of services to Maryland citizens in general and landowners in particular who are concerned with forest and tree care and culture.

\*Concept of Eras in Forestry taken from "Environmental Programs for the Future", U.S.F.S., USDA, June, 1974.

IMPORTANT CONSERVATION ERAS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Concern/Emphasis</u>	<u>National Leader</u>	<u>People</u>
Formative Years	Prior to 1900	Little - Same Attention to fish & Wildlife		Rural
Period of Awakening	1900 - 1920	Timber scarcity Loss to wild fire & over cutting	Teddy Roosevelt Gifford Pinchot	Rural
Conservation	1920 - 1940	-Continuation of emphasis on protection & timber	Franklin Roosevelt	Rural & Urban
	1937	-Soil Conservation	Hugh Bennett	
War Years	1940 - 1945	-Protection - moved from Baltimore to Adirondicks reauthorized for		Urban & Increasing
Industrial Era	1945 - 1960	-Economic growth of nation intensive management of forests.		Urban & Increasing
	1955 - Pop. Pressure 1956 - Fire Act	-Acquisition of forest land by forest industry		
Environmental Era	1960 - ?	-Beauty -Preservation of land and resources -Rules & Regulations -Public land acquisition -Social values as well as economic values	President Johnson & Ladybird Johnson in early 1960's.	More Urban & Increasing

*giving value to social concerns - preserve cost put here money value to it.*

*Program open space - social betterment for people.*

SUMMARY

1. Population increasing; population shifting rural to urban.
2. Early concern was for one resource and its economic values take concerns for use of all resources and preservation of some land and resources.
3. Public involvement limited in early days. Today there is more public involvement both for selected resources or for total environment.

*1971 - wildlands is Md. 500 acres a year undisturbed land.*

## THE FORMATIVE YEARS

American and Maryland forestry both had their beginnings in an "environmental crisis" of an earlier era. In the developing frontier, forests were both a bane and a boon. They got in the way of farmers, but they also provided wood to build and fuel homes, railroads and factories. So, whether for the land or for the wood, much of the original forest especially on the better sites were cleared. In some areas, erosion and flooding followed; in others, fires burned uncontrolled. Eventually, Americans began to respond to the few voices crying for action and became concerned over their abused land. The first national forest reserves were established in 1891, and by the turn of the century, public interest in forestry and conservation was strongly aroused. In Maryland, concern for the beautiful white pine forests of Garrett County was heard. In 1884, these forests, later logged and burned were described by forest warden J. G. Friend in 1924, when he said, "Had our predecessors 50 years ago taken up the subject of forest preservation and the control of forest fires, we would today have in Garrett County 30,000 to 35,000 acres ready to harvest.....".<sup>2</sup>

## THE PERIOD OF AWAKENING (1900 - 1920)

The early beginnings of a forestry movement in America centered around Gifford Pinchot who crusaded for a professional forestry agency and then became its first Chief. In 1905, the administration of the national forest reserves was transferred from the Department of the Interior to the newly established Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture. In 1906, John and Robert Garrett of B&O Railroad fame and for whom Garrett County was named, gave 1,967 acres to the State of Maryland provided it would manage it and use it as a public demonstration of good forestry. More forest reserves from the public domain were added by President Theodore Roosevelt, and the forest reserves were renamed "National Forests" in 1907. The establishment of the reserves or National Forests and the beginning of forestry in Maryland was a direct reaction to the exploitative timber harvesting and abusive land-use practices that occurred in the frontier development era.

From 1905 to 1920, Congress expanded the mission of the U.S. Forest Service to include research, and later to be a keystone in public forestry administration to this day. In 1900, a Dr. Clark, State Geologist, made the first forest survey in Allegany County.

During this period, April 5, 1906, to be exact, the State of Maryland established a state forestry agency when it passed "an act to establish a State Board of Forestry and to promote forest interests and arborculture in the state". The law directed the State Forester to:

- a. Have charge of and direct and aide forest wardens (mostly volunteers).
- b. Prevent forest fires.
- c. Enforce forest laws.
- d. Collect data on forest destruction and conditions.
- e. Acquire lands for forest culture (not over \$5.00/acre to demonstrate the practical utility of timber culture, and as a breeding place for game.
- f. Protect and improve state parks and forest reserves.
- g. Cooperate with landowners in the protection, management and replacement of trees.

During this time, many of the state forests and state parks were established and enlarged and, in 1939, legislation permitted the Department of Forestry to promulgate rules and regulations on the use of the state forests and parks.

Other happenings during the period were:

- 1923 - Board of Forestry moved to jurisdiction of Board of Regents, University of Maryland, and called Department of Forestry.
- 1924 - Legislation established responsibility of railroads to prevent fires and established "safety strips."
  - Authorized acquisition of Orange Grove Foot Bridge from Baltimore and Howard Counties for the Patapsco Forest Reserve.
- 1927 - Right of federal government to create National Forest Reserves in Maryland repealed.
  - Willful and careless and negligent causes of fires recognized and penalty assessed.
- 1931 - A forest reserve fund created and 15 percent of income from state forests is returned to counties in lieu of taxes. (Later refined and ceiling placed on the fund.)
- 1935 - Authorized receipt of gifts of land from the federal government for use as state forests and parks.
- 1937 - The Soil Conservation Districts authorized. First district in Kent County.
- 1939 - Authorized to make rules and regulations for the administration of the state owned forests and parks.

#### WORLD WAR II (1940-1945)

In 1941, the Board of Natural Resources was created to coordinate the activities of the several state departments concerned with natural resources. (The Board had no authority over the member agencies). The Department of Forestry became the Department of State Forests and Parks. Later the word "State" was removed from the title.

The then Department of Forests and Parks emphasis was on protection of woodlands from wildfire, especially around designated national defense installations. The Department of Forests and Parks cooperated with the Timber Production War Program (T.P.W.P.) to assist landowners and operators to get timber on the market for the war effort.

During this period, to save steel, wooden water tanks on fire trucks were developed in Maryland the concept used for many, many years. Powered fire fighting equipment such as plows was acquired, and a vastly improved system of radio communications was established. Training of personnel was greatly improved.

The Forest Conservancy District Act passed in 1943, created the Forest Conservancy Districts, brought into play the use of interested lay people to help lead, motivate and assist in forestry activities, and called for the licensing of commercial forest products operators.

In 1945, the Tree Experts Law was passed, requiring persons in the business of tree care to be qualified and carry sufficient liability insurance.

In March, 1941, the General Assembly recognized the white oak as the state tree of Maryland, although the Wye Oak (a white oak) is addressed as "the" state tree.

#### THE INDUSTRIAL ERA (1945-1960)

Following the war, demand for housing soared. There was great acceleration in timber harvesting, reforestation, recreation, and the provision of the many goods and services demanded by a rapidly expanded economy. During this 15-year period:

- Population increased 30 percent nationally and in Maryland grew from 1.8 million to 3.1 million in 1960, or 170 percent.
- Real gross national product increased 37 percent.
- Real disposable personal income increased 15 percent.
- Recreational use of Maryland's state forests and parks increased 900 percent.

During this period of rapid economic expansion and industrialization, the critical problem was how to move fast enough to provide enough resources to satisfy all the demands. Important happenings during this period were:

- 1948 - Maryland entered into and co-sponsored the National Tree Farm Program. The Glatfelter Pulpwood Company property at Old Durham Church in Charles County became Maryland Tree Farm #1.
- 1949 - State Forest tree nursery moved to the present site at Harmans in Anne Arundel County.
- 1950 - Smokey Bear adopted as national symbol of forest fire prevention.
- 1951 - Department renamed Department of Forests and Parks.
- 1955 - The first cooperative state-wide forest survey conducted by U.S. Forest Service. (Subsequent surveys conducted in 1966 and 1976, each more intensive in its sampling).
  - Boys Forestry Camps authorized by General Assembly.
  - Eastern Shore forest improvement program started. The Department provided labor and some equipment to do forest improvement for landowners at cost.
- 1956 - General Assembly enacted the Mid-Atlantic Interstate Forest Fire Compact. States involved are Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia.
  - Maryland state forestry celebrated fiftieth anniversary. Special edition of American Forests Magazine. National meetings of American Forestry Association and National Association of State Foresters held at La Plata, Maryland.
- 1959 - Transportation of Christmas Trees and Evergreen Shrubs Act passed. Requires bill of sale.

1950's and 60's - Large increases in forest industry forest ownerships.

1960 - Program Open Space authorized acquisition of land at local and state level for public use and enjoyment.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ERA (1960 - ?)

While industrialization and economic development mushroomed in the 1960's a general public consciousness of the quality of the human environment took root and flourished. The problem of harmonizing economic growth with environmental concerns became a major national issue. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 required all Federal agencies to analyze environmental impacts of their proposed actions.

Important Maryland forestry happenings are listed below.

1963 - Authority taken from Director of Department of Forests and Parks and given to Commission. Director appointed by Governor and serves at his pleasure.

- Association of Forest Conservancy District Boards organized and met for first time.

- Forest products utilization project established within Department of Forests and Parks.

1966 - Second state-wide forest survey conducted.

1969 - Department of Natural Resources created. Board of Natural Resources abolished.

- Part-time firefighters covered with Workmen's Compensation in-state and out-of-state.

1970 - Forest tree improvement project started in Department.

1971 - Wildlands Preservation Law enacted. First official wildland is on Savage River State Forests - 2,000 acres.

1972 - Reorganization of Department of Natural Resources (DNR). All powers, duties, etc. of Forests and Parks transferred to DNR.

1973 - A Natural Resources Article added to the Annotated Code of Maryland, placing all natural resources laws together.

- Scenic Rivers Law passed.

- Archeological Preservation Law passed.

- Changed name of Cedarville State Forest and Cedarville State Park to Cedarville Natural Resources Management Area in recognition of multiple nature resources values present, i.e., recreation, timber, beauty, watershed, preservation of plants, etc. Managed cooperatively by DNR agencies.

- Maryland Environmental Policy Act passed.

- First Youth Conservation Corps project in Maryland in Allegany and Garrett County State Forests.

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- 1975 - Secretary, DNR, appoints forest wardens.
  - Portions of Youghiogheny River designated wild and scenic. Area patrolled by Forest Service.
- 1976 - House Joint Resolution commending Maryland Forest Service for 70 years of faithful work. Swallow Falls State Forest renamed Garrett State Forest in honor of Garrett family who gave the first land to start forestry in Maryland.
- 1976 - Forest Service conducted bicentennial tree project and planting of Wye Oak Saplings as part of the Nation's bicentennial celebration.
- 1979 - Third state-wide forest survey complete.

Presently (January, 1979), the Forest Service has completed a review of its laws and is proposing they be amended to clarify authority, and to add authority to do intensive forest resource planning and establish an urban-community forestry program. A Youth Adult Conservation Corps program is underway with a unit established at the Meadow Mountain Conservation Center.

During this era, conservation, preservation and environmental organizations came into the picture and are involved in legislation and program direction. More time is given to the collection of the data, planning of programs, hearings and other activities in response to involvement by the public in environmental affairs.

Keep Maryland green and clean.

#### REFERENCES

- 1/ "History of Maryland" - 1929 - Matthew Page Andrews
- 2/ Article "Forests and Parks in the Old Line State," American Forests Magazine, October, 1956, special issue, "Salute to Maryland"