

Local field forester recognized by national organization

Blaine Puller has been chosen to receive the Society of American Foresters' Presidential Field Forester Award. The award recognizes foresters who have displayed uncommon talent and innovative methods to achieve a record of excellence in the application of forest management.

Puller joined Kane Hardwood Division of Collins Pine Company in 1975 as a forester.

Over the years Puller advanced through positions of Forester, District Forester, and Eastern Forest Manager.

In 1994 Puller was promoted to Lands Manager and was given the task of guiding Kane Hardwood through the SCS certification process. The lands were certified but had conditions that had to be met before the certification was completely granted.

Through Puller's guidance the arrangements were made for Kane Hardwood to complete the conditions. This included a new forest inventory of the lands, contracting for new aerial photos of the lands and working with consultants to set the parameters of the cruise. Puller has guided the company through its annual audits and the re-certification process. These lands have been certified for nearly 10 years now.



In 2002 Puller was promoted to Forest Manager at Kane Hardwood. He is responsible for all activities on the 125,000 acre Collins-PA Forest and manages the mill yard log inventory.

Blaine supports the local industry by serving on the Allegheny Hardwood Utilization Group (AHUG) board and is a past president. He is also active on the Pennsylvania Biodiversity Partnership where he is Board Vice Chairman.

Puller has been a member of SAF since 1973.

The winners will be recognized at a special ceremony to be held at the National Assembly, October 21 at the 2005 SAF National Convention. The convention will be held October 19-23 in Fort Worth, Texas.



It was a great honor and a very humbling moment. – Blaine Puller