



Frank H. Wadsworth Receives 2009 Sustained Achievement Award

Frank H. Wadsworth was selected to receive RNRF's 2009 Sustained Achievement Award. The Sustained Achievement Award recognizes a long-term contribution and commitment to the protection and conservation of natural resources by an individual.

Wadsworth has given seven decades of professional and personal commitment to the conservation and sustainable use of the world's tropical forests. His incredible career has spanned over 71 years. Wadsworth has successfully promoted sustainable forest management throughout the Americas -- through research, resource management, technology transfer, networking, and public education. Since his "retirement" in 1999, after 61 years of service to the USDA Forest Service, he has continued his international engagement through active research, development, and training assignments. Having worked in Puerto Rico since 1942, Wadsworth is currently based at the Forest Service's International Institute of Tropical Forestry in Rio Piedras.

His work extends to all areas of forestry and forest management, but goes beyond that into many other aspects of natural resource conservation and management. During most of his life he was actively involved with the Boy Scouts of America and he promoted public involvement in forest and wildlife conservation and education through the Natural History Society of Puerto Rico, which he helped found in 1960.

Wadsworth wrote a highly significant book on sustainable forest management in tropical America "Forest Production in Tropical America" (1997), a 580-page summary of what was known about tropical forestry at that time. It has been used as a college textbook and the Spanish version has been widely used by students, professional foresters, and interested citizens in Latin America.

As Forest Supervisor of the Caribbean National Forest from 1956-1974, Wadsworth significantly contributed to the Forest's management and expansion. Under his management, land was consolidated, the forest was expanded, new boundaries were formed, ecological research studies began, and the decline of the endangered Puerto Rican Parrot was reversed.

His long list of publications, editorship of the Tropical Forest Station's quarterly "Caribbean Forester" for 24 years and of the quarterly "ISTF News" for over 29 years, and numerous training and consulting assignments throughout Latin America (and beyond) have contributed to the deep respect with which he is regarded as a scientist and leader in the tropical forestry network around the world.

The award will be presented at the annual meeting of the RNRF Board of Directors on November 16, 2009, in Potomac, Maryland.