

FOREST FORUM

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ANOTHER ILL WIND

EDITOR: In 1889, 100 years before Hugo, another hurricane struck Charleston, on a Sunday evening. My mother, a small girl at the time, rode out the storm in Williamsburg County, about 60 miles from the city. Her sturdy two-story building had been built of squared longleaf pine logs by my grandfather, Samuel Isaac Montgomery, when he returned from service as an officer in the Confederate

army. It weathered the winds well, but many virgin longleaf pines on the place were felled.

Hugo's destruction of some of the finest second-growth longleaf pine timber on the Francis Marion National Forest distressed me. As a private consultant hired by the Forest Service, I had recommended silvicultural treatment for many of its stands in 1975. I hope that advance reproduction, established under the shelterwood system, will regenerate much of the forest

without the need for expensive planting.

The forest's name is also important to me as my ancestors served in Francis Marion's brigade during the revolutionary war.

TOM CROKER
Greeneville, TN

DEATH OF AN EDITOR

EDITOR: I'm positive that Tony Bouza knows his literature well, but writer John Kostouros ("Trees, Crime, and Tony Bouza", September/October AMERICAN FORESTS) needs to bone up on his reading. Arthur Miller, not Eugene O'Neill, is author of the acclaimed play, "Death of a Salesman."

HANNAH KIRCHNER
Indiana Div. of Forestry

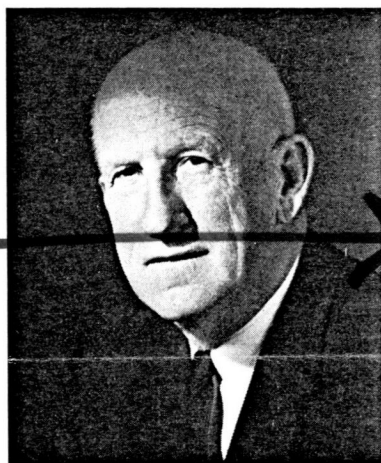
Charles A. Connaughton, 1909-1989

Charles A. Connaughton, long-time director and former president of the American Forestry Association, died December 19 in Portland, Oregon, of causes related to old age. He was 81.

Charlie was born in 1908 in Placerville, Idaho, and graduated from the University of Idaho in 1928 with a forestry degree and from Yale in 1934 with a master's degree. He and Myrtle, his wife of 57 years, were married in 1932.

His 43-year career with the U.S. Forest Service began with a temporary appointment on the Boise National Forest. In the early '30s he worked with the Civilian Conservation Corps program, and was later named director of the Rocky Mountain Station and then the Southern Station in New Orleans. He served as regional forester of the Southern Region, the California Region, and finally of Region 6, a position he held until his retirement in 1971.

Charlie was president of AFA from 1971 to 1973, and president of the Society of American Foresters for the 1960-61 term. Among his



many awards was AFA's John Aston Warder Medal and SAF's Sir William Schlich Memorial Award.

He is survived by his wife, Myrtle, of Portland; son Kent of Beaverton, Oregon; daughter Sharon Ebbert of Cincinnati; sister Teresa Shawyer of Jerome, Idaho; and four grandchildren.

Charlie Connaughton toiled long and hard for forestry and for this association. He will be sorely missed.—WARREN POST

INPUT ON "NEW FORESTRY"

EDITOR: It seems to me that some of our scientists are following a pattern that is a classic example of a fallacy used in logic texts. Hypotheses are advanced as theories without a pattern of research to qualify them. In some cases a hypothesis is presented as though it were a scientific law.

Each proponent of a hypothesis gathers about him a group of disciples who in turn develop a group of followers who often do not know the hypothesis, let alone understand it. If a qualified scientist questions the hypothesis, he is indignantly descended on by the entire group.

Consider the scientist who questioned the "greenhouse" hypothesis by asking why some segments of the planet were becoming progressively colder. There is a need to question all the hypotheses being advanced. We know practically nothing about the

variations in the ozone layer over geologic time. It may have been full of holes during some past era.

Now we have "A New Forestry" (Jerry Franklin, November/December issue). We have the proponent of a hypothesis, his disciples, and a growing group of followers. Many do not understand the hypothesis, but they like its emotional appeal. Perhaps, they reason, it can be used to promote some other environmental idea that they support.

There is nothing new about Franklin's ideas. Ecology and ecosystems are not new sciences, although we are learning more about them. I was taught about forest ecology and ecosystems 60 years ago by E. G. Cheyney, professor of forestry at the University of Minnesota. He was advanced beyond his time in his concepts.

Almost every conceivable method of harvesting Douglas-fir has been tried. All the methods Franklin proposes have been used, and the results of their use are visible today. The young forests, contributing to the environment we like to brag about, exist because of the harvest of "old-growth" in the past and nature's "harvest" by her methods of fire and other natural causes. Many of the past methods were not dictated by scientific forestry but were governed by the equipment available, transportation, and the demand for forest products. The harvest was but a segment in the growth of a new nation. We were too busy to be attentive to or interested in the science of forestry. Regardless, there is much to be learned about forestry by careful analysis of what has gone before.

There are volumes written on Douglas-fir, yet I find no reference to them in Franklin's article. Leo Isaac (Mr. Douglas-fir) spent his career studying this species. Is his effort considered "traditional" and not relevant to the "New Forestry"? Has a new Douglas-fir been discovered whose silvical and physiological characteristics changed in the last 50 years?

Statements made in Franklin's article are subject to more scrutiny before we submerge ourselves in the "new" hypothesis. What statistically sound evidence exists that fungi die if their host dies? I have read of fungi spores being found in archaeological digs in ruins 5,000 years old.

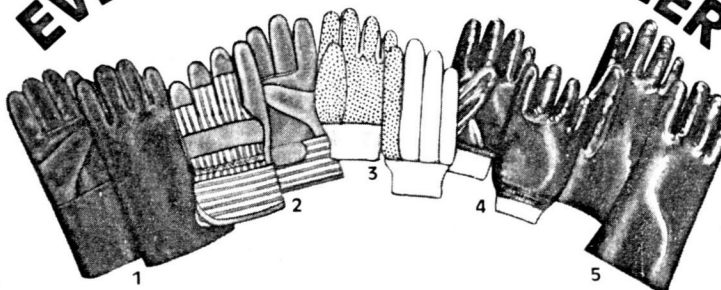


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Predacious and parasitic invertebrates are found where there is an abundance of food. It seems logical that they would be more abundant in a decadent timber stand and not in thrifty young growth. Hungry predators hang around their food supply.

The "New Forestry," I believe, constitutes a political rather than a scientific approach to controversy. Politics compromises; scientific truth does not. I do not believe that the "New Forestry" will change the silvical and physiological characteristics of a Douglas-fir tree. I do not believe that concentrating on a single age class in a forest will solve overall forest management.

D. R. GIBNEY
Husum, WA

EDITOR: The article "Toward a New Forestry" by Jerry Franklin describes a refreshing approach that has long been needed. Agronomic forestry may be suitable for pulpwood production in the South, but multiple-use forestry must be broader in scope.

The article raises several questions, but the area most prominent is the apparent effort to de-emphasize the need for regeneration. Perhaps that impression is not intended, but regeneration is mentioned only in statements criticizing present methods. Yet Franklin surely knows that adequate regeneration is an absolute requirement to maintain the "forest." And, unless commodity objectives are to be entirely abandoned, regeneration must be of commercially valuable species.

Heavy slash is not a particularly good seedbed. To what extent does untreated heavy slash reduce the area available for regeneration? What is the possibility that red alder or shrub species will preempt some areas? The Cascades have many millions of acres of brush that may once have been conifer stands. I assume that the "old-growth ecosystem" is composed mainly of pure conifer stands, probably mostly Douglas-fir. If such species replacement occurs, will that not also change the ecosystem? Would those changes be more desirable—for us, or for the old-growth flora and fauna—than those caused by clearcutting? And what about the fire hazard posed by untreated accumulations of slash?

All such questions could not be an-