

## Roy Burdette Clarkson

Roy B. Clarkson graduated *Summa cum laude* from Davis and Elkins College in 1951. He received a M.A. in 1954 and Ph.D. in 1960 from West Virginia University (WVU). He is a member of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists; Association of Southeastern Biologists; Southern Appalachian Botanical Club; and, West Virginia Academy of Science.



Dr. Clarkson is a plant biologist who has spent most of his life working in the forest industry and on forest lands, conducting technical forest research, teaching forest biology to university students and the general public and documenting his work through the publication of professional journal articles and books about West Virginia forest history and forest biology. These publications have proved to be invaluable references for professionals who are directly involved in the management of West Virginia forests and wildlife.

Dr. Clarkson's distinguished 40-year teaching career in the Department of Biology at WVU has resulted in major contributions to West Virginia. His contributions have been recognized by induction into the Society of the Sigma Xi (Scientific Research Society) in 1960, Honor Society of Agriculture (Gamma Sigma Delta) in 1978 and, most recently, his receipt of the *Elizabeth Ann Bartholomew Award*, conferred by the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society in 1993.

Dr. Clarkson's 1960 doctoral dissertation, *The Vascular Flora of the Monongahela National Forest*, is the defining work documenting the kinds and distribution of tree species in the largest national forest in the eastern United States. Important portions of this work were published in *Castanea* in 1966.

His 1964 book, *Tumult on the Mountains*, is a documentation of the operations and effects of timber industry activities in West Virginia from 1770 to 1920.

In 1990, he published the book, *On Beyond Leatherbark—the Cass Saga*. This book documents the history and effects of the timber industry in that part of southeastern West Virginia where he was born, grew to young manhood and worked in the surrounding forest and lumber mill at Cass.

In 1980, he coauthored the book *Forest Wildlife Plants of the Monongahela National Forest*, which is now an important reference for West Virginia forest wildlife managers.

In press at the present time is an article "Man's Influence on the Forest" in the *Natural History of the Upper Shavers Fork Watershed, West Virginia*.

Dr. Clarkson's extensive researches and publications have produced an invaluable record of species distribution and records of past and existing conditions of West Virginia forests. This knowledge is a basis for future research, as well as a basis in the quest for wiser and more efficient management of the State's forest resources.