

Reference List

1. David Foster, Earl P. Stephens. 6-12-2007
Abstract: Dear Dr. Stephens,

June is upon us and things are bustling in Petersham, as we have 25 undergraduates who have just arrived for our 12-week summer research session along with the usual contingent of graduate students, faculty and Harvard Forest staff. Field studies are taking place throughout the Forest from the Adams Fay Lot of Tom Swamp to the old hemlock stand along the Swift River in Slab City to the spruce plantation on the top of Prospect Hill. I even have two students working with me on forest reconstruction. This latter subject raises a couple of questions that I am hoping you might be willing and able to address.

I am writing up an overview of Harvard Forest research on forest reconstruction, which not surprisingly will include a lengthy description of your work and great contribution to the field. But the questions relate to where you picked up and developed the techniques that you applied. So, specifically:

- What motivated your study and how did you develop the field methods that you applied, like sectioning trees at height, dissecting mounds and pits, etc.? Did others before you use these or similar techniques and who at the Forest provided assistance to your efforts? Your study stands as the classic work in forest reconstruction and I am curious as to how you came to put all of this together.
- Second, I am wondering whether you were at all aware of the work that Bob Marshall did down on Adams Fay? I discovered that an unpublished section of his thesis includes the reconstruction of the forest history on a 80' x 200' plot. Marshall mapped and identified all stumps, he aged the existing trees and he even aged the trees at height by looking at the logs that were cut. There are some interesting parallels with your work and so I am curious if the two of you independently conceived of similar approaches or whether there is any connection. Marshall was clearly influenced by Richard Fisher, Rupe Gast and Al Cline in his work. And his roommate and good friend Neil Hosley.

Any thoughts that you might have on these questions would be of great interest.

Meanwhile, I hope that summer is upon you and that it finds you well and prospering. I've been spending considerable time in the Harvard Forest archive and continue to be amazed by all the insights that come from the past.

With best wishes, Sincerely,

David R. Foster, Director

6-25-2007

2. ---, Response to letter sent to Earl Stephens, June 12, 2007.

Abstract: DRF wrote a letter to Earl Stephens asking him about the origins if his reconstruction work, relative to Bob Marshall's work.

Received a phone message from his son Tim and called him back.

In September, Earl will be 87-years-old. A couple (?) of years ago he had a stroke in Alaska and more or less since then he and his wife Blanche have been living with Tim in Mississippi.

Earl used to work for Champion Paper and he loves hearing about the Harvard Forest although he can't remember much or get information out. Brings tears to his eyes to have my letter read to him.

Tim's sister in Texas had some tree x-sections and papers that were ruined in a flood. Up until a few years ago Earl and Blanche used to drive down from Alaska regularly to see the family. Sounds like Tim is the youngest and used to live in AK with Earl. Loved to tell stories of Hugh Raup and Harvard Forest.

Tim Stephens
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