

WVAFHOF 2015 Inductees

Four new members inducted into the Hall

The West Virginia Agriculture and Forestry Hall of Fame Foundation enshrined four new members into its ranks on July 18, 2015. A reception and dinner were held at Jackson's Mill. Dr. Paul Nesselroad was on hand to pick up his plaque. The other three inductees, Richard Glass, Larry Lee May, and Ephe Olliver, are deceased. They were represented by family members.

Commissioner of Agriculture Walt Helmick handed out the awards and praised the men for their hard work over decades. Enshrinement in the WVAFHF is reserved for those individuals, businesses, organizations, institutions, and foundations that have made outstanding contributions to the establishment, development, advancement, and improvement of the agricultural, forestry, and family life of West Virginia.

The WVAFHF Foundation was chartered in 1974. In 1976, the Board of Governors voted to include forestry professionals in the Hall of Fame.



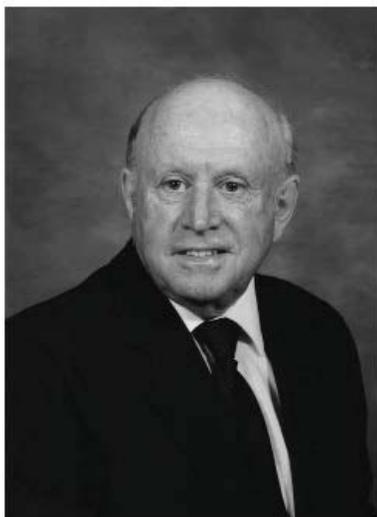
Diane Lambert accepts the 2015 West Virginia Agriculture & Forestry Hall of Fame Award on behalf of her father, Richard Glass.



Commissioner Helmick congratulates Dr. Paul Nesselroad (pictured with his family) on his induction into the West Virginia Agriculture & Forestry Hall of Fame Class of 2015.

Richard J. Glass

Richard J. Glass was born March 1, 1921 in Sissonville, WV on a 55-acre farm. Working and living on this farm developed an lifelong interest and passion for agriculture



and science. After graduating high school in 1939, Richard attended Morris Harvey College for two years, majoring in Biology. Mr. Glass enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1941 and served for the duration of World War II. He was honorably discharged in 1945. Following his military service, Glass enrolled in the College of Agriculture at West Virginia University (WVU) in 1946, and in 1947, married Elizabeth "Betsy" Ellison, also a student at WVU. They proceeded to have two children, David in 1953 and Diane in 1955. Glass graduated from WVU with a B.S. in Ag Education in 1949, and went on to teach in West Virginia public schools for 20-plus years. His teaching assignments included Woodrow Wilson High School (Beckley, 1949-1953), Charles Town High School (1953-1956)

and Masontown Valley High School (Preston County, 1958-1972). Mr. Glass was also the WVU Extension Agent in Fayette County from 1956-1958.

At Masontown, with Mr. Glass as their advisor, the FFA had the following degrees attained: 6 American Farmers, 60 State Farmers, 14 State Foundation Award winners, 2 North Atlantic Regional Award winners and 13 National Judging teams in livestock, dairy, poultry, dairy products and meat products.

When the Preston County Educational Center was opened in 1972, Mr. Glass was asked to be the first administrator. He served in this position for 14 years until his retirement in 1986.

Among Mr. Glass' many honors were: West Virginia Teacher of the Year (1971), recipient of the Gamma Sigma Delta Special Certificate of Merit for Distinguished Service to WV Agriculture in 1972, Outstanding Service Awards in 1978 and 1982 from the WV Vocational Association and an appointment to the Governor's Joint Commission for Vocational, Technical and Occupational Education in 1990 (served eight years).

Mr. Glass passed away in December 2009.

Larry Lee May

Larry Lee May was born March 1, 1945 in Kingwood, WV. Instilled with a keen interest in the outdoors, he attended and graduated from WVU, earning a degree in Forest Management in 1966. After his graduation he served with the U.S. Army Reserves. In



1971, Larry married Elaine Wilson and had two children, Emily and David Scott May. After marrying, Larry went to work with the WV Division of Forestry (WVDOF) as a service forester providing assistance to landowners in Grant, Hardy and Pendleton Counties. As a service forester he was an early promoter of best management practices (BMPs) for timber harvesting and sustainable forest management. During his time as a service forester, May started his own company, May Tree Enterprises, LLC, and began planting Christmas trees on his farm in Grant County. He worked for the WVDOF until the mid 1970s, when he took work at Kessel Lumber Company. While

working at Kessel, May continued to promote sustainable forest management and grow his own Christmas tree operation. Mr. May left Kessel after nearly 20 years to devote full time to his Christmas Tree operation and forestry consulting activities. His farm became a showplace for modern Christmas tree management practices. Mr. May actively conducted trial plantings of many tree species to determine their potential for commercial production in West Virginia and shared the results with fellow growers. He hosted three summer meetings of the WV Christmas Tree Growers Association, along with many other farm tours. Mr. May's hard work, innovation and knowledge helped to greatly promote West Virginia's Christmas Tree industry. His own farm became the largest Christmas tree operation in the state.

Mr. May passed away in January 2014.

Paul E. Nesselroad

Paul E. Nesselroad was born February 19, 1924 in Sedan, Kansas. In 1938, his family moved to Ravenswood, WV where he became active in FFA, going on to serve



as secretary, vice president and president of the State organization. In 1941, Nesselroad enrolled at WVU to study Agricultural Education. After enlisting in the U.S. Army, he returned to WVU in the fall of 1945 and graduated with a B.S. Degree in Agriculture two years later. Following his 1947 graduation, he married Joanna Strosnider and they moved to Romney, WV where he taught Vocational Agriculture. He is credited with the revival of the FFA and Vocational program there. Mr. Nesselroad resigned from his teaching position in 1950 to begin graduate study in Ag Economics at WVU. Mr. Nesselroad completed his coursework and accepted an appointment with the United States Treasury in Charleston, WV where he was responsible

for the Educational and Agricultural aspects of the savings bond program. In 1954, he was appointed a research assistant in Farm Management at WVU. During the late 1950s, as the State's broiler industry was going through rapid changes, Mr. Nesselroad did extensive study on the industry and reported on his research, and also served as the economist in the development of "A Plan for Revitalization of the Broiler Industry." In 1960, Mr. Nesselroad took a leave of absence from WVU to pursue further graduate work in Agricultural Economics and Farm Management at Penn State University. Nesselroad returned to WVU in 1963 as an Assistant Professor in Farm Management. He was a pioneer in the introduction of the computer into agricultural economics classrooms at WVU. In 1971 he was promoted to Associate Professor, in '76 to Professor of Agricultural Economics, and from 1983 until 1989 he served as the Chairman of the Department of Agricultural Economics. Prior to his retirement, Mr. Nesselroad participated in the formation of WVU's Committee of Retired Faculty, and served several years as a member of the Board of Directors of the WVU College of Ag. He was awarded outstanding WVU Teacher in 1974-1975, FFA Honorary State Farmer in 1981 and was the recipient of the Gamma Sigma Delta Senior Faculty Member Certificate of Merit in 1985.

In 2004 an endowed scholarship was given to the Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design in recognition of Mr. Nesselroad's 33 years as a faculty member.

Ephe M. Olliver

Ephe M. Olliver was born September 21, 1906 in Hastings, Pennsylvania. Raised on the family farm, Mr. Olliver became an outdoorsman, particularly enjoying hunting.



While working on a teaching degree from Indiana State Teachers College in 1927, he realized that he was meant for an outdoors life, and in 1928 enrolled in the Forestry Program at Penn State University. He completed his Forestry degree there in 1931. Mr. Olliver began working with the U.S. Forest Service on the George Washington National Forest in Virginia. While there, he married Ardee Grey in 1934 before moving to Kentucky as part of a team to purchase land that would eventually become the Cumberland National Forest.

While in Kentucky, Ardee and Olliver had two sons, Ephe A. and Grey M. Olliver. In 1938, Mr. Olliver was transferred to West Virginia as District Ranger on the Greenbrier District at Durbin. It turned out to be a short assignment as forests in New England had been decimated by a hurricane and Mr. Olliver worked for years on timber salvage projects in that area. In 1941, he returned to the Cumberland National Forest as part of the Forest Supervisor's staff in charge of fire protection and then moved on to a position near Philadelphia. In 1952, he transferred back to Monongahela, where he stayed as Forest Supervisor for 17 years until his retirement in 1969.

Mr. Olliver was supportive of the effort in creating the WV Sawmill Operators Association which later evolved into the WV Forestry Association. He strongly believed in harvesting mature timber in such a way to be compatible with other uses of forestlands. He was also a member and supporter of the WV Christmas Tree Growers Association.

He was also a strong advocate for forestry education, traveling as a speaker to forestry summer camps and to Morgantown to speak to classes at WVU.

He was the recipient of the Izaak Walton League of America's Hall of Fame award in 1997 and was a charter member of the Mountaineer chapter of the Izaak Walton League. He was also a great supporter of the Mountain State Forest Festival in Elkins where he lived with his second wife Virginia for the remainder of his life.

Mr. Olliver passed away in October 2001.