

## David K. McCurdy

David K. McCurdy was born at Norristown, Pennsylvania, on April 26, 1941.

He graduated from Springfield Township High School in Erdenheim, Pennsylvania, in 1959 and received a Bachelor of Science degree from North Carolina State University in 1963.

Mr. McCurdy's forestry career began with the West Virginia Division of Forestry as a service forester in Mineral County in 1965. Two years later he was promoted to nursery superintendent for the Parsons State Forest Nursery, a position he occupied for 19 years, until the catastrophic flooding of 1985 destroyed two decades of work in one short night. He and his family lived on the nursery grounds and were extremely lucky to escape with their lives.



From Parsons, he was transferred to West Columbia in Mason County where in 1986 he reopened the Clements Forest Tree Nursery. He approached this job with gusto and succeeded in modernizing, reequipping and expanding the facility. Over 40 plus years, he sold over 100 million tree seedlings and actively cooperated with scientists in research on the growing of trees. One important project seeks ways of getting the American chestnut to grow without succumbing to the dread fungus that causes chestnut blight and which removed the once prominent tree from West Virginia forests. No cure is yet in sight, but there are hopeful signs that it won't be much longer until the project is successful.

Mr. McCurdy is a founding member of the Northeastern Area Nurserymen's Association, member of the West Virginia Christmas Tree Growers Association, state-wide instructor in defensive driving and certified instructor for the United States Forest Service.

His civic activities include being a decades long member of the Kiwanis, a former Sunday school teacher, superintendent and lay preacher in the Presbyterian Church, officer in the Full Gospel Businessmen's Association and a more than two decades long member of the Rejoicing Life Church in Middleport, Ohio.

Mr. McCurdy is famous for his compassion and helpfulness in assisting citizens in how to successfully grow trees and for procuring the necessary trees to be planted for memorial purposes. He is Mr. Tree Seedling in his adopted State.