

N. C. STATE COLLEGE FOREST SCHOOL
DEMONSTRATION FORESTS

By
Dr. J. V. Hofmann, Director, Forest School,
N. C. State College

I have been asked to take up some of the things that we are doing with our school forests. Since our forests are located in different parts of the State and the work that we are doing is for the benefit of all of the people of North Carolina I feel that it may be of interest to you to have me tell you something about where our forests are and what we are doing with them.

The area of 84,000 acres that has been secured by the forest school for field work, demonstration and forest management is located in Jones and Onslow counties in the eastern part of North Carolina. This area includes what is called a pocosin. It is spelled p-o-c-o-s-i-n and the traditional definition of the work in the Indian language means "a swamp on a hill." This formation is found in eastern North Carolina and South Carolina on the coastal plains and it is the only place in the world that this type of formation exists. The geologists' explanation of the pocosin areas is that they were formed by a shower of meteors hitting this section of the coast. These meteors came from a northwesterly direction, striking the ground with such force that it is calculated they were buried to a depth of some four miles. When these meteors struck the ground they pushed up the soft earth in front of them and on the side of the pockets where they entered, but there would be no ground raised on the side from which they came. This formed pockets with the earth pushed up on the sides and in the front, leaving basins that through

the hundreds of thousands of years that followed were filled with vegetable matter. At present these areas are swampy, because the basins formed in ages past have been water-retaining basins and the vegetable matter inside has formed a very rich soil. For this reason the areas are always wet or swampy even though they are higher than the surrounding country.

In our own area the elevation is 67 feet above sea level with the tide water only a few miles away. With this elevation it is very easy to see that drainage is entirely possible. The areas, however, cannot drain with this bank of solid earth surrounding them. The only way that drainage can be effected is to break through the side of this bowl. Preparations are now being made to blast channels with dynamite through the walls of these bowls. With this process we are planning to bring into good forest production some 15,000 acres of land that is now too wet to grow timber.

As I mentioned before, the purpose of our forest is demonstration, research and management. Any workable process that we develop for putting this land into production can be used to put hundreds of thousands of acres into production in this coastal plain region.

At the present time we have a CCC camp on this area engaged in making the boundary surveys and running levels to find where the best drainage channels would be, as well as building roads and protecting the area from fire. As soon as the entire plan is developed work will be begun in carrying out this program. After the drainage channels are opened up the open areas will be planted with pines that are best suited to this type of land.

An area of 1600 acres known as the Hill Forest is located

in Durham county, 17 miles north of Durham on the Roxboro road. This is one of our forests that was made possible by the help of Mr. George Watts Hill, who has been financing the purchase of this land. The purchase price is paid back to Mr. Hill as revenue arises from the sale of forest products.

This forest has been developed as one of our field headquarters. We have a very fine log lodge that will accommodate 40 to 50 students and a dam forming a pond near the log lodge, also a house for the superintendent of the forest, with some storage buildings. This unit has been developed through the various government programs and has been carried on without any aid from State funds. The classes visit this area during the school year and in the future some of the summer work will be done on this forest.

The Maclean Forest is on the Inland Waterway in Hyde county and contains 1500 acres. This area affords very good opportunity to study the coast type in that section of the State. Some timber cutting has been done on this area and a logging operation is just beginning to continue the work. The whole program is aimed at natural regeneration of the forest but in some cases where repeated fires have occurred it will be necessary to aid the young trees to overcome the brier and brush thickets.

These three forest units are the field laboratory for the forestry studies and demonstration. They cover the Piedmont and east coast section of the State. The entire forest land program has been developed without any aid from the State or any appropriated funds whatever. All of the lands are purchased on a long-time program and are paid for from revenue derived from the lands. This program

is organized in order to keep forestry and all developments on a strictly business basis. If any demonstrations are carried on they must be on a financial basis that the individual or company can do as well as the school.

In addition to all of the forestry program a game program is being developed that will eventually bring in all of game management and forest development for the game interests. We have very fine hunting grounds in the large forest tract in Jones and Onslow counties for big game and birds. On the Hill Forest there is a fine opportunity to develop a game preserve for quail, turkeys, deer and other game. The MacLean forest lends itself best to deer and fishing. With all of this program the entire conservation movement must be included. The Forest School is pioneering in some of this work with the idea that by proper demonstration and business development of forest game and fish, others may become interested and follow in developing one of the greatest resources that North Carolina has today. Game and fish are often thought of as something for the sportsman alone. Their commercial values are too often overlooked. The forest products come in this same group. People do not realize the money value of the conservation program until they take a part in it. The work that is being done by the forest school in many cases will succeed only with the cooperation of the people surrounding these areas and the people of North Carolina in general. We want your support and your cooperation not in dollars and cents but in understanding and in a mutual program where every one concerned can benefit from the standpoint

of recreation, outdoor sports in hunting and fishing and in bringing back our extensive land areas into forest production where all of these various parts of a conservation program will unite to make North Carolina a better and more profitable place in which to live.

MADE IN U.S.A.
BOMB

MADE IN U.S.A.