

jointly present the first

***CNR-CALS AWARD FOR SERVICE TO
ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIETY***

to:



Dr. Steven E. McKeand
Professor and Co-Director
Tree Improvement Program

***Department of Forestry and
Environmental Resources***

Presented at the “Borlaug Lecture”

October 16, 2006, 3pm, Talley Student Center ballroom

This award is open to all faculty regardless of unit affiliation at NC State. It will be given annually to a tenure-track faculty member, jointly by the deans of CALS and CNR. This prestigious award recognizes exemplary service to Environment AND Society through any mechanism of scholarly work. The most important aspect of a successful nomination will be demonstration of “impact”. “Service” to environment and society suggests that the impact of the work has contributed directly or indirectly to the improvement of the human and natural world conditions. For 2006 the selection committee was CALS Dean Johnny Wynne, CNR Dean Robert Brown, CHASS Dean Toby Parcel, NC State Provost Larry Nielsen, and The Honorable NC Secretary of State Elaine Marshall.

Dr. Steven E. McKeand is Professor of Forestry and Environmental Resources and Co-Director of the NC State University – Industry Cooperative Tree Improvement Program

(<http://www.cfr.ncsu.edu/for/research/tip/tip.html>), a role he shares with his colleague and friend Dr. Bailian Li. Steve has been a professor at NC State since 1994, first joining the faculty in 1983 following his Ph.D. in the same program. He has worked with Drs. Zobel, Jett, Weir, Allen, Mullin, Kellison, and others. Before joining NC State, Steve earned his B.S. and M.S. degrees at Purdue.

Dr. McKeand leads a team of scientists, staff, and students in managing the largest tree genetics and breeding program in the world – focused on loblolly pine. The Cooperative is supported by forest products companies, forest landowners, and state forestry agencies throughout the southeastern US. Much of the increased productivity on almost 20 million acres of forest plantations in the South is due to the tireless and effective efforts of this program. The program has made more than 16,000 controlled crosses and related tests; with intensive silviculture, has resulted in a doubling of productivity; produced enough seed to plant over 30 billion improved seedlings; and today about 50% of all trees planted each year in the US have their genetic origin at NC State. These trees grow faster, are straighter and more disease resistant than ever before.

This work has been part of the education of more than 200 graduate students, 64 post-docs, and numerous undergraduates over the past 50 years, from 34 countries. The work has found its way into more than 800 publications – more than 70 refereed papers bearing Steve's name, brought 23 million dollars directly to NC State, and been supported by 170 million dollars of in-kind contributions. Countless extension and outreach activities have brought this work to others in the South, and around the world. Steve has been an integral part of this effort for the past 26 years.

The positive impact of this work on society and environment has been far greater than the enhanced productivity of planted pines alone. It has translated into reduced pressure to transform natural forests into intensively managed pine plantations; has made the efficiency of cultural inputs greater; has improved the financial return for landowners thereby reducing pressure to sell forest land for high value development uses and thus helping to conserve open lands; and has helped to make a broad public aware of the utilitarian value and critical need for sustainably produced wood for lumber, fiber and now, increasingly, fuel.

Dr. McKeand has taught graduate Forest Genetics since 1986, recently begun to teach the undergraduate course in Tree Improvement, and since 2000 has led the departmental effort to teach the Graduate Seminar in Forest Research. He has served his department as Director of Graduate Programs, and currently chairs the department graduate committee, among very many departmental, college and university assignments. A few years ago he took his commitment to graduate education and initiated and supports the Forestry Faculty Fellowship for Excellence in Graduate Education.

Forestry and Environmental Resources department head, Dr. Barry Goldfarb wrote, "The NC State Tree Improvement Program has been the leading tree improvement program in the world, beginning with Dr. Zobel and continuing through today under the leadership of Dr. McKeand. It has contributed a great deal to the reputation of NC State around the world. Dr. Steve McKeand deserves a large measure of credit for this success. Fortunately for all of us here at NC State, under his leadership, it is well positioned to continue this excellence in the years to come. Steve McKeand exemplifies the model of an engaged scientist, typified by Norman Borlaug. He is an excellent scientist, who extends his findings to the real world, to enable people and organizations to improve our environment and society."