

BOOK-WRITING, SOFTBALL-PLAYING RETIREE

Former Wayne-Hoosier NF Employee Enjoying Life in Florida

The Villages, FL (October 16, 2017) – When he's not playing softball, he's writing books. And when he's not writing books, he's playing softball.

Dan Kincaid is well known to most Hoosier NF retirees. He was stationed at the Ironton Ranger District on the Wayne-Hoosier NF in the mid-1970s and was Supervisory Forester on the Marietta Unit from 1980 to 1990. When he retired from the USFS in 2006, he was the District Ranger at Athens on the Wayne NF.

Dan spent considerable time on the Hoosier at various meetings and training sessions over the years and he also served two extended details to the Supervisors Office in Bedford in the 1980s.

"I'm not sure of the years anymore," Dan said recently, "but the first detail was in the early 1980s to help out with news releases and other public information duties. I believe the S.O. was in-between PAOs at the time. The second extended detail was in the late 1980s. I was assigned to the Planning Team to help with organizing the public comments for the first Hoosier Plan. I wrote some information pieces for the Planning Team then, too."

Dan said that a health issue that is aggravated by cooler temperatures (in the 60s or lower) necessitated a move to Florida from Athens, OH for him and his wife, Vicki, in 2014. They live in The Villages, a community of about 115,000, mostly retirees. And when he got to Florida, he discovered "senior softball."

"I hadn't played softball in about 25 years," Kincaid said. "I never thought I would ever play again. But the players in these softball leagues grew up loving baseball, as I did, and they are all in their 50s, 60s, and 70s. There are over 2,000 softball players in this community and a lot of them are former college and minor league players, as well as high school players. So, the talent level is very good. It's just that everyone is older. I guess I've played in seven different leagues since I've been here and I love it. It's year-round," he said. "Several of my teammates here have been from Indiana and Ohio."

Kincaid's other major interest is writing. He's published four books, three of them forestry-related, since he's been in Florida, although the first one was started before he left Ohio. His fifth book will come out by the end of the year. The books are:

- 1) **The Penicillin Kids**, 2015, a historical account of Huntington, WV's Vinson High School and its 1966 Class AA state basketball championship. That team was recognized on its 50th anniversary during the state basketball tournament in

Charleston in March 2016. Kincaid was a starting forward on that team. Dan said the team had a “Hoosier-like” run, resulting in a completely unexpected state title.

- 2) **Your.....Wayne National Forest, Vol. I**, 2016, a compilation of Kincaid’s weekly outdoor newspaper columns written in 1981 and 1982, while stationed with the U.S. Forest Service in Marietta, OH.
- 3) **Your.....Chattahoochee National Forest**, 2016, a collection of Kincaid’s weekly outdoor newspaper columns written from December 1978 to June 1980, while stationed with the U.S. Forest Service in Blairsville, GA.
- 4) **Kade Holley - Forest Ranger, Vol. I**, 2017, a fictional account of the adventures of a forester stationed at national forest locations in Minnesota, Ohio, North Carolina, and Washington. Although this book is fiction, it is loosely based upon Kincaid’s U.S. Forest Service assignments on the Superior National Forest, the Wayne National Forest, the Uwharrie National Forest, and a detail to the Mount St. Helens Volcanic Monument on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. This book is geared toward the “young adult” audience, those who might have an interest in pursuing a career in forestry or other natural resource fields.

Kincaid received his Bachelor’s degree in Forest Management from West Virginia University, a Masters degree in Forestry/Environmental Management from Duke University, and is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. He received numerous awards and recognition while working at the Wayne-Hoosier NF, including:

- Outstanding Individual in Government Service from the Ohio Forestry Association, 1987.
- R-9 Regional Foresters Honor Award for Public Service, 1988.
- Outstanding Member, Ohio SAF, 1989.
- Communicator of the Year, Ohio SAF, 1990.
- Elected as a Fellow in the National SAF, 1991.

“My chronic health issues will eventually curtail my softball playing,” Kincaid noted. “I’m just not sure when yet, but I have certainly enjoyed playing. After all those years of not playing, I never thought I’d get to do it again. But no matter what, I’ll continue writing as long as I can,” he said. “I really enjoy that, too.”