

# NATURE IN THE VILLAGES

## INTERVIEW WITH A FORESTER

STORY BY RICA LEWIS | PHOTOS BY ROB WILKERSON

Growing up in the rural mountains of West Virginia meant splashing in streams, wriggling into sleeping bags and gazing into diamond-studded skies at night.

“My grandfather had more than 100 acres that bordered the Monongahela National Forest,” Dan Kincaid said. “Everybody hunted, fished, camped and hiked. We were always fishing or picnicking on the weekends and enjoying the outdoors.”

Kincaid’s passion for nature steered him toward a career in the field — many fields, that is. A 30-plus-year United States Forest Service forester, Kincaid worked in several states and in varying positions, always helping to manage and protect the resources in our country’s gems — the national forests. Those resources included wildlife, soil, water, recreation opportunities, plants and trees, wilderness and more. “There are a lot of careers in the natural resources industry,” Kincaid said. “Just about any outdoor activity that a young person enjoys can translate to a career.”

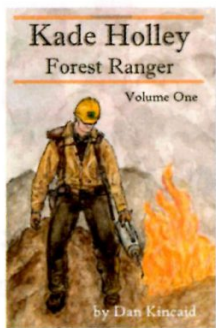


After retiring to The Villages, Kincaid had the desire to share with others some of the exciting things a forester encounters. Kids who are interested in learning more about forestry or who simply want to read about Kincaid’s adventures can read his books.

“Though the books are fiction, they are based loosely on things that happened to me or that I knew of during my forestry career,” he said. “Although many adults are enjoying them, I try to market the books to young-adult audiences with the hope of encouraging young people to consider a career in forestry, wildlife management or other related fields. If I’ve heard it once, I’ve heard it a thousand times — “I always wanted to be a forest ranger!”

### KINCAID’S WILDLIFE-INSPIRED BOOK SERIES

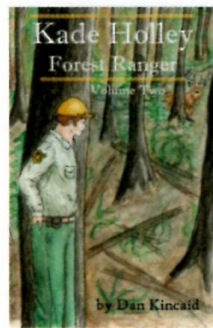
GENRE: FICTION



#### **Kade Holley, Forest Ranger, Vol. I**

Follow Kade Holley on a series of five exciting outdoor adventures, including a plane crash on a remote lake in Minnesota’s Superior National Forest, a dangerous forest fire in the pine woods of North Carolina’s

Piedmont region, an encounter with a group of unruly vandals in Ohio’s Wayne National Forest, and an interesting assignment at Mount St. Helens in Washington.



#### **Kade Holley, Forest Ranger, Vol. II**

Forest Ranger Kade Holley has more in store for readers. In this edition, Holley escapes from an angry bull moose in Minnesota, helps solve an illegal deer poaching incident in West Virginia, and encounters “smelly” vultures in Ohio and a problem bear in the mountains of north

Georgia. Things take a wild turn when Holley has the opportunity to ride in a racecar with driver Scott Dixon prior to the Denver Grand Prix during a fire prevention assignment in Colorado.