



Talking With Dan Kincaid

Resident of the Village of Dunedin spoke about being honored for his preservation work.

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Dan Kincaid, of the Village of Dunedin, is passionate about nature preservation and forest management, and spent more than 30 years with the U.S. Forest Service. He wrote more than 12 books based on his career and once tended to a tree that was chosen as the Christmas tree for the United States Capitol. Most recently, Kincaid's alma mater honored him with an award for his work.

What was the award you received?

I was recognized as the 2021 Outstanding Alumnus of the West Virginia University's Division of Forestry and Natural Resources. I graduated from West Virginia University with a degree in Forest Resource Management, and then got my Masters degree in Forestry and Environmental Management from Duke University. Because of the work I did in wilderness management, firefighting and timber inventory, I've received a few different recognitions over the years as a way of being thanked for my work. WVU honors an alum every year for the work that we do in our communities, and I was the recipient this year.

How did it feel knowing you're receiving this honor?

I try to stay a pretty humble person, and I've had a few awards over the years, but it's nice to be honored after such a long career even though I'm retired. I still love national parks and conservation, and I've turned my experience into books. All anyone wants is to make a positive impact on the world and on people, so this award sort of confirms I was able to do that.

What were some of your duties that led up to earning this award?

I've worn many career hats in my life, from serving in the Air Force to teaching middle school, high school and college. But the majority of my work was with the U.S. Forest Service in national forests in West Virginia, Ohio, Minnesota, Georgia and North Carolina. I also had a weekly column where I wrote about forestry and the forest service. But some of my duties in the industry were forest inventory, timber management, recreation, visitor information, wilderness management, firefighting, wildlife projects, public affairs, federal liaison with state agencies, urban forestry, conservation education, and managerial responsibilities, in addition to various other assignments.

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