

# **Fred E. Winch**

June 16, 1914 – May 17, 2008

## Remembering a Maple and Natural Resource Pioneer

From November 1943 to November 1975, Fred E. Winch was a pioneer of maple research and education in New York State. He led the way in maple producer education through establishing annual maple schools at over 15 sites around the state. His dedication to natural resource research and extension was very broad and included such topic areas as forest planning, forest taxation, tree plantation spacing, installing windbreaks, recreation, and wood use as fuel. Fred broke new ground in maple and woodlot research through assisting with the establishment of two research extension facilities in New York that still are active today, including the Uihlein Sugar Maple Research and Extension Field Station in Lake Placid and the maple program at the Arnot Forest. The benefits of these pioneer efforts are still helping maple producers and forest owners today.

Mr. Winch was born in Framingham, Massachusetts on June 16, 1914. He graduated from the University of Maine at Orono with a B.S. degree and received his Master's Degree in Forestry in 1937 from Cornell University. He was an Assistant and Associate Professor at Cornell University and served as the Extension Forester from 1943-75. He was Professor Emeritus at Cornell University since 1975. Fred became widely known for his knowledge of maple syrup production and marketing. He was an experienced forester specializing in the management of farm woodlots. He worked extensively with maple producers, woodlot owners and Christmas tree growers throughout New York State. At Cornell, he held a number of responsible positions including Director of Arnot Forest; Associate Director of NYS Cooperative Extension; Acting Chair of the Department of Natural Resources and Department Extension

Leader. Fred provided significant support and leadership to organize the North American Maple Syrup Council and later to form a National Maple Research Council. He wrote extensively about the production and marketing of maple syrup including Extension Bulletins such as Know Your Trees, Production of Maple Syrup and Other Maple Products, Planting Forest Trees in Rural Areas, and Judging Maple Products. He assisted in producing the publication, The Maple Syrup Producers

Manual. He was especially well known for his commitment to young people through his work with 4-H and Future Farmers of America.

In May of 1977, Mr. Winch was the first inductee into the American Maple Museum's Hall of Fame displayed at the American Maple Museum in Croghan, New York. In 1995, he received the Outstanding Alumni Award from the Alumni Association of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell University. In 2004, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences named Mr. Winch a Charter Member of the Liberty Hyde Bailey Leadership Society.

Mr. Winch continued to show his dedication to his community in retirement as a member of The First Baptist Church of Bradford, New Hampshire, serving as chairman of the Board of Trustees. He was a member and treasurer of the Bradford Historical Society and the Bradford Conservation Commission. Mr. Winch was a founding member of the Bradford Voters Coalition and was on the Bradford Town Facilities Committee of the Board of Selectman. He was a Director of the New Hampshire Timberland Owners Association from 1977-85 and was a member of the New Hampshire State Tree Farm Committee, the New Hampshire Forestry Communications Council, and a member of the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Advisory Committee for Merrimack County.

Fred passed away Saturday, May 17, 2008 at the age of 93. His pioneering spirit is still remembered by many maple producers and forest owners throughout the world and many more continue to benefit from his foresight, dedication and hard work.

*Stephen Childs, Chairperson; Tommy L. Brown, Mike Richmond*