

THE FOREST GENETICS RESEARCH FOUNDATION

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To *begin* with, I want to distinguish clearly between the Foundation that I represent and the Institute of Forest Genetics at Placerville, California. The Institute was founded many years ago by James G. Eddy of Seattle and I have served on its advisory board. In recent years he and I and a few others found that the Institute was not

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adequately financed to enable it to function as a progressive center of research in forest genetics. This problem set us thinking and, later on, we decided to organize a foundation for the purpose of supporting research in this field. This Foundation was incorporated in April 1951 and received certification of exemption from federal taxes in April 1952.

The main objectives of the Foundation are: (1) to receive and distribute financial support for research in forest genetics, especially for fundamental research; (2) to stimulate and assist in public education concerning the need for and importance of such research. Three types of gifts are accepted by the Foundation: (1) contributions to the general fund which can be used for either maintenance or research; (2) contributions to a permanent endowment fund; and (3) contributions for specified projects.

The Foundation has sufficient in the general fund to continue operations but has not received enough to permit the making of any grants. One small contribution for the permanent endowment has been received. Two contributions, totaling \$20,000, have been accepted for a specified project. Thus far no support has come from **any** industrial firms; but it is hoped that eventually this source of support for research will provide an important part of the funds administered by the Foundation.

The project now being supported by the \$20,000 contributed by an individual is a west-wide survey of ponderosa pine. Its primary purpose is to bring together in living condition as many as possible of the phenotypic differences existing in this species so that they may be subjected to a genetic analysis. The long-range aim is the synthetic breeding of super-ponderosa types.

When the Foundation succeeds in bringing the general fund up to a point where something can be allocated for the support of research, there are various ways in which such assistance can be extended. (1) Grants can be made either to individual scientists or to institutions. (2) Scholarships for graduate students and fellowships for post-doctorate researches can be awarded. An important policy of the Foundation is that it will seek the advice and cooperation of appropriate regional committees or groups in reaching decisions about acceptance of grants for specified projects, the making of grants, and awarding of scholarships or fellowships.

In closing these remarks permit, if you please, a few words about forest genetics and conservation. One of the most urgent needs of American forestry today, it seems to me, is more emphasis on the importance of heredity in forest conservation. My recent paper on "Future Forests and Heredity" was concluded as follows:

"In the hope that they may serve as a basis for discussion in any future conferences on natural resources, I wish to submit the following theses:

- "1. The preservation of the better and elimination of the poorer hereditary stocks in each important timber tree species must be recognized as a basic principle in forest conservation.
- "2. The utilization of the best available hereditary traits or features of each important species, i.e., conservation of superior genes, in the creation of ideal types of timber trees by means of applied genetics must be recognized as a basic principle of forest conservation.
- "3. Since the utilization of superior genetic stocks of timber **trees** in growing our future forests can be accomplished only by qualified scientists, working intensively, continuously and cooperatively for many years, the adequate financial support of research in forest genetics and allied disciplines is of basic importance in forest conservation."

(Ed. note: The above three theses, at Dr. Babcock's suggestion, were incorporated in the resolutions adopted by the Conference.)