

THE LAKE STATES FOREST TREE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Paul O. Rudolf

Over the years there has been a small but important amount of research in forest genetics in the Lake States, and recently there has been a growing awareness of the importance of forest tree improvement in this region. In response to this awakening interest, the Lake States Forest Experiment Station sponsored the Lake States Forest Genetics Conference held at Eagle River, Wisconsin, on March 31 and April 1, 1953.

The Conference was attended by 56 foresters, geneticists, plant pathologists, entomologists, and biologists from the universities, state conservation departments, forest industries, and federal forestry agencies of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, and included also some representation from Ohio, Ontario, Massachusetts, and California. This meeting provided an opportunity (1) for those engaged in forest genetics research to report briefly on what they had done and what they had learned, (2) for those interested to learn the status of such research in the Lake States, and (3) for interested people to point out problems needing study.

Out of this Conference there developed the Lake States Forest Tree Improvement Committee, the purpose of which is "to encourage and coordinate forest genetics activities in this region." The committee of 9 was selected to represent the subject matter interests and agencies concerned in forest genetics work. It consists of Earl J. Adams of the Minnesota Conservation Department, B. L. Berklund of the Nekoosa-Edwards Paper Company, W. H. Brener of the Wisconsin Conservation Department, F. J. Hodge of the Michigan Conservation Department, A. J. Riker of the University of Wisconsin, P. W. Robbins of Michigan State College, T. Schantz-Hansen of the University of Minnesota, Stephen H. Spurr of the University of Michigan, and Paul O. Rudolf of the Lake States Forest Experiment Station as chairman.

To carry on its assigned tasks, the Committee, with the addition of 7 well-qualified men outside its membership, has been divided into the following four temporary subcommittees:

Seed Collection. Zones.--F. J. Hodge (Chairman), B. L. Berklund, W. H. Brener, P. O. Rudolf, T. Schantz-Hansen, and G. W. Jones (U. S. Forest Service), and J. W. Macon (Consolidated Water Power and Paper Company). The purpose of the subcommittee will be to develop uniform seed collection zones for the three Lake States. The zones should be based on some significant and readily available climatic factors.

Tree and Stand Selection. --P. O. Rudolf (Chairman), E. J. Adams, P. W. Robbins, A. J. Riker, S. H. Spurr, and R. G. Hitt (University of Wisconsin), and E. E. Ochsner (U. S. Forest Service). The purpose of the subcommittee will be to develop guides for the selection of superior stands and trees for the principal forest tree species of the Lake States.

Bibliography and Directory. --S. H. Spurr (Chairman), P. W. Robbins, P. O. Rudolf, T. Schantz-Hansen, and B. H. Paul (Forest Products Laboratory). The purpose of the subcommittee will be (1) to prepare a bibliography on forest genetics for the Lake States (including both material originating in the Lake States and applicable material originating elsewhere), and (2) to prepare a directory of forest genetics activities in the Lake States and adjacent regions dealing with the same tree species.

Projects for Study. --T. Schantz-Hansen (Chairman), B. L. Berklund, F. J. Hodge, A. J. Raker, P. O. Rudolf, and A. C. Hodson (University of Minnesota), and P. N. Joranson (Beloit College). The purpose of this subcommittee will be to develop a list of projects suggested for study to aid in the genetic improvement of Lake States forest trees.

The subcommittees are preparing reports which will be circulated to the entire Committee in September and will furnish the basis for discussion at a Committee meeting to be held in October. After suitable revision, these reports will be published to guide tree improvement work in the Lake States. At this meeting also, the future activities of the Tree Improvement Committee will be charted more specifically.

Pauley I also have here a statement on the Forest Genetics Research Foundation, by Dr. Ernest B. Babcock, Executive Vice-President of the Foundation, which I believe will be of interest to this group.