

# Student Embarks On a Path Toward Hardwood Management

Scholarship Articles By Kristen McIntosh

A forest management student at North Carolina State University (N.C. State), Carson Ramsey aspires to become a consulting forester. He is working toward a bachelor's degree in forest management with a minor in wildlife science. Once earning his degree, he will seek registered forest certification for the states of North Carolina, Tennessee and South Carolina.

Carson is one of this year's Railway Tie Association John Mabry Forestry Scholarship winners.

With a focus on hardwood management, Carson has not only made his education a top priority but has also worked in a variety of jobs before and during his college career to gain practical experience in the field.

"Most of my practical experience in forestry has been in the piedmont and mountains of North Carolina. A good portion of my experience has been through working on wildland and prescribed fires. My first

experiences with fire were through my local volunteer fire department where I served as an officer for three consecutive years before starting at N.C. State," he said. "I was first inspired by the ecology of fire and its effects on the landscape, which, in turn, steered me toward a degree in forestry. Later on, I was put in contact with the owner of a local sawmill through my work with the fire department. The sawmill owner provided me the opportunity to work an internship over the summer with their procurement crew. This has inspired me to pursue work in silviculture and consulting forestry after graduation."

Carson has also taken leadership roles in related on-campus organizations. He served as vice president and president for the university's chapter of the Association for Fire Ecology. "I have also served as safety officer for the N.C. State Forestry Club and will be serving as president this coming



year. I have also been an active member of the N.C. State Chapter of the Society of American Foresters."

Carson said forestry appealed to him as a career because he was interested in learning more about sustainably utilizing and managing natural resources, ecological function of wildlife, wildland fire, map building, estimating the price of standing timber, and communicating and meeting others with the same interests.

"Through spending time in the field of forestry and attending school at N.C. State, I have come to appreciate that a degree in forestry offers a multitude of career options. The path I have chosen is to work in silviculture to build a solid foundation of knowledge in regeneration, harvesting and management before moving into consulting forestry. Consulting forestry helps the tie industry because you are working to get the best price for the landowners so you can count tie logs in your initial cruise.

Assistant Professor of Silviculture and Co-Director of the Forest Productivity Cooperative in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources at N.C. State Rachel Cook, Ph.D., highly recommended Carson for the scholarship. "Carson demonstrates an outstanding level of scholastic achievement and leadership. Carson has also shown excellence of character through his thoughtfulness, personal responsibility and ability to work in a team.

Congratulations, Carson, on earning one of RTA's coveted John Mabry Forestry Scholarships. ■

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