

## Preservation of forest at Foscue Plantation earns honor for owner

[Sue Book](#)

February 11, 2008 - 8:52PM

POLLOCKSVILLE — A few years ago, preserving the quality of the forest around the Foscue Plantation became almost as important to Jim Foscue Jr. as restoring and preserving the 1804 plantation house had been.

According to the N.C. Forest Service, Foscue has done a good job preserving the forest land on what was once a 10,000-acre plantation, the home of his ancestors, bordering the Trent River. The Forest Service has given Foscue its Forest Stewardship Certification award.

Foscue, who is from High Point, was recognized “for the outstanding management of his Jones County forest land,” said Wayne Bell, Jones County forest ranger. Bell presented the award Thursday along with Forest Stewardship biologist Deanna Noble of Kinston.

The Forest Stewardship Program assists landowners with the balanced use and conservation of their wildlife, timber, water and soil resources, for recreation and natural beauty. To be eligible, landowners need 10 contiguous acres of forest land or land that will support a forest, and they must sign a commitment to improve and protect the forest resources through a written action plan followed for five years.

The wooded portion of about 1,200 remaining acres of Foscue Plantation land is being managed “to create and improve habitat for a diversity of wildlife species, to increase the productivity of the land for the sustainable management of timber resources, to increase aesthetic and recreational values, and to improve soil and water quality,” Bell said.

The forest land is on the old historic plantation about 2.5 miles north of Pollocksville off U.S. Highway 17.

“We consider it a commitment to the land for today and tomorrow,” said Bell.

Jim Foscue said, “We have always tried to be good stewards for history and the land. Part of it is included in an easement to the Coastal Land Trust. But this award would not have been possible without a host of the right kind of people helping.”

Lewis White farms the land, and his patience and cooperation with the effort while he was trying to make a living were critical, Foscue said. So was the work of the N.C. Forest Service employees in Jones County.

Foresters Bell and Steve Long helped implement a plan put together by Wallace Hawthorne of North Carolina State University that involved block-cutting of timber to preserve wildlife habitat and controlled burns.

The program uses public agencies working together to assist those who want to improve their forests by providing educational, technical and financial assistance, Bell said.

Like Foscue, he said, stewards are proud of their forestland and apply the principles of conservation in managing all of the forest’s resources.

In Jones, Craven and Carteret counties, a total of 308,234 acres are in forests, 159,886 of them in the Croatan National Forest.

North Carolina's forests are significant for their part in clean air and water, and forest resources are a significant factor in the state's economy through industries that in addition to logging now include energy production.

According to state Forest Service information, one out of every six manufacturing workers in North Carolina depends on the forests for a living, and North Carolina ships more than \$17 billion worth of manufactured forest products annually. Forest-related recreation, travel and tourism contribute an additional \$10.1 billion to the state's economy each year.

More information and a stewardship request form are available at [http://www.dfr.state.nc.us/stewardship/forest\\_stewardship.htm](http://www.dfr.state.nc.us/stewardship/forest_stewardship.htm).

The Simon Foscue family plantation became a Civil War hospital for Union troops and was the only house left standing along what is now Highway 17. It is open for viewing on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment.