

Dear ANREP:

With this note I extend a proud and humble thank you for the Meritorious Service Award presented at ANREP IV in honor of my years of “behind the scenes” work in nurturing the formation and subsequently the management of the Association of Natural Resource Extension Professionals (ANREP). The push for ANREP began as a concept in August 1991 in Eugene, OR. Since that time Natural Resource Extension Professionals have wrestled with the development and adoption of by-laws, election of officers, collection of dues, formation of committees, solicitation of membership in the Joint Council of Extension Professionals, planning and conducting four bi-annual meetings, and somewhat recently, sponsorship of the Galaxy Conference. Watching ANREP grow in respect and prowess is one of the more memorable aspects of my work in Washington, DC.

In my view, because of ANREP and the ECOP Forestry Task Force, the Cooperative Extension System is in its best position ever to lead and respond to national natural issues including policy and legislation. In earlier years it appeared that the System regarded national natural resources policy and legislation as someone else’s responsibility and consequently were very glad to step aside. Hopefully, via ANREP and other structures, this attitude has changed and the System will be more willing to engage in dialogue central to national natural resources research and outreach education policy.

In closing, let me encourage ANREP to work closely with CSREES to select a person to fill the position I left. This position is somewhat restructured but never the less a great position. Moreover, I respectfully encourage ANREP to take an active role with CSREES to identify Program Leader gaps within the Natural Resources and Environment Unit and subsequently assist the Unit advertise for and recruit candidates.

Please know that Sarah and I are thankful for the many opportunities of working and associating with ANREP. We regard you as our friends and the ANREP Meritorious Service Award as one of the highlights of a very rewarding career.

Best wishes to each and every one.

Sincerely,

Larry E. Biles  
Forestry Program Leader (Retired)  
USDA – CSREES

Phone: 706-542-3098  
e-mail: lbiles@forestry.uga.edu