

2008 Award Winner

ABC FP Honourary Membership - Merve Wilkinson

The Association of BC Forest Professionals (ABC FP) awarded Merve Wilkinson with Honourary Membership – the most prestigious award the association bestows upon non-members.

Merve has owned and operated a woodlot, known as Wildwood, since 1938. What makes Wildwood unique is Merve's use of forest management techniques that were well ahead of their time. He practises sustainable forestry and has ensured that the woodlot retains its ecological and economic values for future generations.

"Through his willingness to share his knowledge and love of forestry with students young and old, Merve has touched a generation of forest professionals," says Jonathan Lok, RFT and president of the ABC FP. "Merve has explained the complexities of forestry to thousands of people and helped the public to understand that forestry can be conducted in a sustainable fashion in BC."

Although he is now 95 years old, Merve continues to live on Wildwood and students continue to tour his property and learn about forestry. The Land Conservancy of BC purchased Wildwood in 2000 to ensure that the property would remain a forest and be available as a learning site forever.

Merve's hope is that Wildwood will continue to be used as a place to learn about nature and our role in it. "We need to understand our relationship with the earth. We have to live with the earth. The earth does not have to live with us," he says.