

## About the Principal Author and Editor

Dr. Gene Wood is Professor Emeritus, Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, Clemson University. He grew up in the hills of Virginia where he loved and worked his family's draft horses that were used for farming and logging. He holds degrees in forestry (BS, Virginia Tech 1963), wildlife management (MS, Penn State 1966), and agronomy (Ph.D., Penn State 1971).



He was on the faculty of the School of Forest Resources, Penn State University from 1967-1974. He joined Clemson's Baruch Forest Science Institute in 1974 where he was Professor and Forest Wildlife Ecologist (100% research) until 1989 when he moved to the main campus to resume teaching, research, and extension responsibilities. He began trails work on the Clemson Experimental Forest in the mid-1990s out of a love of trail riding and in an effort to learn to design, construct, and maintain recreational horse trails that were safe, ecologically sound, and economically sustainable. 25% of his University time was as Extension Trails Specialist.

He led the organization and conduct of the National Symposium on Horse Trails in Forest Ecosystems in 1998. He founded the annual Southeastern Equestrian Trails Conference in 2000. He has made presentations on recreational horse trails and taught workshops on trail design and construction in 16 states. He is a master of Leave No Trace with Pack and Saddle Stock and a member of Back Country Horsemen of America. He also serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Back Country Horsemen Education Foundation. He has published approximately 130 papers based on natural resource research and management, including horse trail issues, and made numerous conference presentations throughout the nation.

In October 2004 he was a keynote speaker at the National Australian Tracks and Trails Conference in Adelaide, South Australia. While there he also taught workshops on minimum impact with trail stock and trail design and construction. He also lectured at the University of South Australia and the Australian National University in Canberra.

He retired from Clemson University in May 2007, but continues to work with the Clemson Experimental Forest Manager to manage 40 miles of wildlands trails that are used primarily by recreational horsemen and does trails consulting work.

### Contact Information:

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