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## Preface

In its development by the editors of the first proceedings, the Central Hardwood Forest Conference was designed to provide a forum for the increased communication and exchange of ideas between scientists and land managers operating in the Central Hardwood Forest Region. Such a forum, of course, relies upon a solid understanding of the biology of the region. Thus, an additional objective of the conference was to provide a centralized mechanism for the exchange of new findings among scientists working in the Central Hardwood Forest Region. It is always hoped that the formal and informal exchanges provided by a conference will contribute to the design of new research programs leading to a greater understanding. These have been the objectives of the second and third conferences and remain the objectives of the Fourth Central Hardwood Forest Conference. Increased demands upon resources of the Central Hardwood Forest Region require that appropriate management schemes be based upon a firm understanding of the biological foundations of the forest type. It is to be hoped that these and future proceedings will contribute to the wise and sustained utilization of these resources.

## Acknowledgements

The success of an undertaking of this sort requires the cooperation and support of many people. Special thanks are due to Drs. George B. Coltharp, Deborah B. Hill, Thomas W. Kimmerer and William C. McComb, who along with the editor made up the Conference Planning Committee. Mrs. Ina Kidd and Mrs. Judith McCracken provided typing and logistical support during all phases of the conference. Finally, the editor is indebted to the reviewers who took time from busy schedules to review and provide comments on each of the manuscripts in the proceedings.

## Review Procedures

Each paper contained in this proceedings has had peer review by two scientists working in closely aligned areas and appropriate revisions were requested by the editor prior to acceptance. Manuscripts by U.S. Forest Service personnel were subject to internal Forest Service review which was used by the editor as the basis for acceptance.