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Preface

These proceedings are from the fifth in a series of biennial conferences begun in 1976 at Southern Illinois University. Other past conferences have been sponsored by the Forestry Departments of Purdue University, The University of Missouri, and the University of Kentucky. The purpose of these conferences remains the same: to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas among scientists and forest managers and to facilitate coordinated research in the central hardwood forest region. The central hardwood forest is an ecological entity dominated by winter deciduous oak and hickory trees in eastern North America. Rather than draw boundaries, the organizers of the conference have entertained contributions of papers not only from the Ohio River Valley, which forms the heart of this region, but also from neighboring regions in the eastern United States and Canada with similar hardwood forests. A variety of research work with a bearing on understanding and managing central hardwood forests has been reported in this and past proceedings.

New technologies for using hardwoods, increased exports of hardwood timber, and other factors outlined in the keynote paper of this conference indicate that the time is coming when this regional forest resource may increase in economic importance. Thus, a biological basis for managing these forests may become increasingly critical. Additionally, the contributions of this resource in providing clean water, recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat, soil stabilization, and other benefits in an increasingly developed landscape in the eastern United States indicate the importance of our understanding hardwood forests. We hope that this and future conferences in the series continue to broaden our biological understanding of this valuable forest ecosystem.

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Review Procedures and Disclaimers

Each paper in this proceedings has been peer reviewed by at least two scientists working in disciplines closely aligned to the subject matter. Appropriate revisions suggested by reviewers were requested by the editors prior to acceptance of a paper. Manuscripts by U.S. Forest Service personnel were subject to internal Forest Service review which was, in some cases, used by the editors as the sole basis for acceptance.

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