

STATE BOARD OF FORESTRY.

Johns Hopkins University.

Ex-Officio Members:

Governor Albert C. Ritchie.....	Baltimore
Comptroller E. Brooke Lee.....	Baltimore
President J. H. U., Frank J. Goodnow.....	Baltimore
President M. A. C., A. F. Woods.....	College Park
Edward B. Mathews, State Geologist.....	Baltimore

Appointed by the Governor:

Robert Garrett.....	Baltimore
W. McC. Brown.....	Baltimore

State Forester:

F. W. Besley, Johns Hopkins University.....	Baltimore
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The Board consists of the Governor, Comptroller, President of Johns Hopkins University, President of Maryland Agricultural College, State Geologist, and two members appointed by the Governor for a term of two years. One of those appointed by the Governor shall be a practical lumberman and one known to be interested in the advancement of forestry. (Ch. 294, 1906.)

The State Board of Forestry was created and organized to protect and develop the valuable timber and tree products of the State, and to carry on a campaign of education and to instruct counties, towns, corporations and individuals as to the advantages and necessity of protecting from fire and other enemies the timber lands of the State. While the power of the Forest Department rests with the Board, the detail work is in the hands and under the management of the State Forester, who is secretary of the Board, and all correspondence and inquiries should be addressed to him at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. The State Forester has studied the timber interests of each of the twenty-three counties in detail and the statistics and information collected are published for free distribution, accompanied by a valuable timber map to all who may apply. He will co-operate with counties, towns, corporations and individuals, in preparing plans for the protection, management and replacement of trees, woodlots and timber tracts under an agreement that the party obtaining such assistance pay at least the field expenses of the men employed. A great work of the Forester is to use means to prevent and to extinguish forest fires which are liable to destroy annually thousands of dollars worth of young timber. For this purpose there is a well established system of lookout stations, and of patrol in conjunction with the U. S. Government. A force of about 120 men are distributed throughout the State, who are constantly upon the watch to discover and extinguish fires; giving particular attention during the danger seasons in spring and fall. The laws against setting out fires are very strict. The State and the county divide the expense of extinguishing fires.

By a recent law the Board of Forestry is directed to care for "road-side trees" or those growing within the right-of-way of any public highway in the State, and no tree can be cut or trimmed by a corporation or individual without a permit from a Forest Warden, after application to the State Forester. The same Act makes it illegal to post commercial advertising signs on trees, or along highways, and citizens are empowered and Forest Wardens directed to remove them.

To advance the cause of forestry, the State Forester and his assistants give on an average fifty free illustrated lectures a year before schools, societies, and interested organizations. The Forester will welcome inquiry on all forest subjects, and will gladly give information desired if available.