

Reginald E. Balch

Reg Balch was born in England in 1894. In 1913 he came to Canada to be a cowboy. However, the closest he got to cows was milking them at \$10 per month.

At the start of World War 1, he enlisted in the Canadian Field Artillery. At demobilization in 1919, he entered the Ontario Agricultural College from which he received a BSA in 1923. In 1927 and 1930, he obtained an MSc and OH.D. in Forestry from SUNY.

Moving to Fredericton in 1929, he was appointed officer in charge of federal entomological research for the Maritime Provinces. Later, he became Director of the Forest Biology Lab in Fredericton, a position he held until retirement.

Throughout his career as a research forester he maintained a strong interest in methods of forest management as an alternative to pesticides in the protection of forests from insects and diseases. He developed biological methods to control the European Spruce Sawfly by introducing a number of parasites and a virus, a method described as the most successful and best documentation project in forest history.

Dr. Balch has received a number of awards, including: the American Foresters Award of Achievement, the Medal of the Royal Society of Arts, the K.L. Golding Award, an honorary DSc from UNB and the Coronation Medal. He is a Charter Member of ARPFNB, a past president of the CIF and honorary president of the NB Conservation Council. These honors all recognize his contribution to the environmental welfare of the Atlantic Provinces.

Reg Balch is recognized here for his contribution to the science and practice of forestry and his pioneer research on the biological problems of forest management, in particular the ecological approach to insect control in New Brunswick.