

Brief Biographical Sketch of
Dr. M. Rupert Cutler

Dr. Cutler is a native of Detroit, Michigan. His undergraduate degree in wildlife management is from the University of Michigan and his master's and doctor of philosophy degrees are from the Department of Resource Development of Michigan State University. His doctoral research was a study of environmental litigation.

Dr. Cutler retired on March 31, 1999, following a career in journalism, environmental policy and natural resources public administration that spanned 45 years and many employers. He began as a journalist, writing instruction books for Argus Cameras and then editing a weekly newspaper in Arizona, the Virginia Game Department's magazine, *Virginia Wildlife*, and the National Wildlife Federation's magazine, *National Wildlife*. Later, he served as assistant executive director of The Wilderness Society, senior vice president of the National Audubon Society, executive director of Population-Environment Balance, and president of Defenders of Wildlife.

Midway through that sequence of environmental association executive positions, he took time off to obtain his Ph.D. and serve on the staff of Michigan State University. He was simultaneously an assistant professor of resource development and the state's extension specialist in natural resources policy. President Jimmy Carter appointed him assistant secretary of agriculture for conservation, research, and education. From 1977 to 1980 he provided policy direction to the U.S. Forest Service, the Soil Conservation Service, and USDA's research, extension, and library agencies.

Since January of 1991, Dr. Cutler has resided in Roanoke, Virginia. From 1991 to February of 1997, he was the executive director of Virginia's Explore Park, a 1,000-acre outdoor living history museum and environmental education center on the Roanoke River in Roanoke and Bedford counties. In March of 1997, Dr. Cutler became the founding executive director of the Western Virginia Land Trust, a new, private, nonprofit association created to help preserve the natural, scenic, and cultural heritage of western Virginia on private land, using conservation easements.

Since his retirement from the land trust on March 31, 1999, he has served on several public citizen advisory committees. They include the state legislature's study of the impacts of chip mills and Roanoke's studies of a land use plan for Carvins Cove reservoir lands and a new plan for the city parks and recreation department.

He and his wife Gladys live in South Roanoke.