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A Tribute To Dr. Henry W. “Rob” Robison

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A TRIBUTE TO Dr. HENRY W. “Rob” ROBISON



Dr. Henry W. Robison, Ph.D. is Emeritus Distinguished Professor of Biology, Southern Arkansas University, Magnolia. “Rob”, as he is known amongst his colleagues, is a renowned ichthyologist and natural historian. He served as President of AAS in 1980-1981 and was long-time historian of the society from 1984 to 2007. Rob is coauthor of several books on Arkansas biota, including *Fishes of Arkansas* (Robison and Buchanan 1988), *Only in Arkansas* (Robison and Allen 1995), and *Amphibians and Reptiles of Arkansas* (Trauth et al. 2004). He and Tom Buchanan have produced a second edition of *Fishes of Arkansas* and it is in the process of being published by UA Press. Rob has published over 66 papers in the *Journal of the Arkansas Academy of Science*, his first article was in the then *Proceedings* with his long-time mentor, Dr. George Harp (Robison and Harp 1971). In addition, he has over 350 published papers in the scientific literature.

By the early age of 14, Rob had already decided to become an ichthyologist. He attended Arkansas State University (ASU) and received his B.S. degree in 1967. At ASU he also earned an M.S. in biology in 1968 under the tutelage of Dr. Harp. Rob pursued a Ph.D. at Oklahoma State University in zoology under the direction of Dr. Rudolph Miller where he obtained the degree in 1971. During that period he also coauthored a book with Miller entitled, “*Fishes of Oklahoma*” (Miller and Robison 1973). A second edition of *Fishes of Oklahoma* was also published with Dr. Miller (Miller and Robison 2004).

Rob immediately found employment following graduation and his first faculty position was a summer teaching position at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. In August 1971, he accepted a tenure-track teaching position at SAU where he taught the next 37 yr before retiring in 2008. Rob received the Excellence Award for Research at SAU in 1993 and 2008, becoming the only person to receive it twice. He also received the W. Frank Blair Eminent Naturalist Award in 2012 from the Southwestern Association of Naturalists.

Rob has not slowed down since retirement and tries to get into the field as much as possible. His hobby is photography and he continues research on crayfishes and the endemic biota of Arkansas. Rob has the distinction of having several species named in his honor, including *Bouchardina robisoni*, *Eimeria robisoni*, *Homalometron robisoni*, *Kongsbergia robisoni* and *Ochrotrichia robisoni*.

Dr. Robison is married and has two children and seven grandchildren. A recent article on his life appeared in *American Currents* (Robison 2015).

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