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Tribute to Dr. George and Phoebe Harp

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A TRIBUTE TO DR. GEORGE AND PHOEBE HARP

As the first graduate student of George L. Harp back in 1967, I (HWR) have been extremely proud to watch the emergence of this marvelous scientist from a young energetic Assistant Professor at Arkansas State University to the font of wisdom for the Arkansas aquatic biology community that he is today. With his lovely, dynamic wife, Phoebe, at his side, George taught undergraduate and graduate courses, did research, and guided graduate students at ASU in aquatic biology for 32 years. He retired in May 1999 as a Distinguished Emeritus Professor of Environmental Biology. During his tenure at ASU, George helped develop the original aquatics program and taught classes in limnology, aquatic entomology, aquatic biology, and ichthyology as well as undergraduate zoology courses in the Department of Biology.

George received his initial academic training at the University of Kansas where he earned his BA degree in Zoology in 1958. Later, he earned his MA degree from the University of Missouri in 1963, and his Ph.D. degree in Zoology from UM in 1969. George published over 60 scholarly papers and 28 research reports, received 29 funded grants/contracts, and directed 33 Master's theses while at ASU. In addition, he has given 117 presentations at learned forums. A limnologist by training, his research interests include ecology of altered aquatic ecosystems, and taxonomy and ecology of aquatic insects. His professional peers have honored him by naming four species of macroinvertebrates for him including a crayfish, stonefly, two caddisflies, a midge and a fifth species is currently being described which will bear his name. He is a Past President of the AAS and has served on numerous important committees for the Academy.

Phoebe Harp earned degrees from the University of Missouri-Columbia (BSE Business Education, 1967) and Arkansas State University (MS Biology 1986, Specialist In Community College Teaching, 1990). She served as a Biology Instructor at ASU, being employed sporadically according to their needs from 1987-2000. Phoebe's research has focused on surveys of aquatic insects, authoring or co-authoring seven articles in state, national and international journals. The Harps have received grants from state and national agencies for biodiversity surveys of dragonflies (Dragonflies of the Ouachita National Forest for the USDA National Forest Service), and state listed (*Ophiogomphus westfalli*, Westlake's snaketail) and endangered (*Somatochlora hineana*, Hine's Emerald) species for the Missouri Department of Conservation.

Not ones to sit idly by after retirement, George and Phoebe have surveyed aquatic macroinvertebrates with particular emphasis on dragonflies for different state and federal agencies including Great Smokey Mountains, Hiawatha National Forest (Maine), Malheur NF (Oregon) Francis Marion NF (South Carolina), Everglades National Park (FL), Andrew Pickens District of Sumter NF and Lyman Lake St. Park (AZ), and Yosemite National Park (CA). During the fall of 2000-2001 they worked for the Missouri Department of Conservation identifying dragonflies for the Wilber Ennis Entomological Museum at the University of Missouri – Columbia. They are currently conducting a survey for the Arkansas Post Natl. Memorial (AR), and have travelled to Mexico, Costa Rica, Australia, and to Namibia, Africa in search of dragonflies.

One of the things most dear to the Harps was the recent establishment of The George L. Harp Environmental Field Station dedicated on 7 November 2009 (George and Phoebe are pictured at the dedication ceremony above). This is Arkansas State University's first field station and is located within the National Scenic River (Buffalo River) System, near Rush, AR. George and Phoebe's contributions to the scientific community are renowned and widespread as is obvious from the distribution and dedication of their many students. We are honored to have been among the first, Henry W. Robison, and the many, Betty Crump.