Harvey E. Barton: In Memoriam

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In Memoriam

Harvey E. Barton, 1936 - 2002

Harvey Eugene "Gene" Barton passed away on November 19, 2002, at his home in Doniphan, Missouri. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, of Doniphan, and five children: Richard Barton of Dallas/Ft. Worth, Texas, Jeffrey Barton of Memphis, Tennessee, Larry Barton of Jonesboro, Arkansas, Peggy Wafford of Memphis, and Susan Dryer of Jonesboro. His brother, Berry Stafford of San Francisco, California, and 14 grandchildren also survive him. Funeral services were held November 22, 2003, in Doniphan with burial in Couch, Missouri.

The son of Harvey M. Barton and Ruth H. Wheeler Barton, he was born August 26, 1936, in Couch, Missouri. He married Margaret Clark in December 1954 and served in the U.S. Army until he was honorably discharged in 1958 as a Staff Sergeant.

Harvey attended the then Arkansas State College (ASC) where he received his B.S. in Biology in 1962 and his M.S. in Biology from ASC in 1963. He continued his graduate education at Iowa State University where he received a Ph.D. in Entomology in 1969. As a student of Dr. Don C. Peters, his dissertation research focused on the development of artificial diets for the corn rootworm.

Prior to accepting a faculty position at Arkansas State, Harvey worked for a brief period for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. He joined the Arkansas State University (ASU) Biological Sciences Department as an Assistant Professor of Zoology in 1967. Shortly thereafter, he recruited a former Iowa State classmate, Dr. Larry A. Olson, to join him as a member of the biological sciences faculty. He retired in 1991 as a full professor after 24 years of service. During this time, Harvey served ASU as a devoted teacher and scholar. His primary teaching responsibilities included general zoology, general entomology and graduate level entomology courses in insect morphology and taxonomy. Those of us, whom he taught and mentored, remember him not only for his high standards and vast knowledge but also for his passion for entomology. This passion was contagious leading several of us into entomological careers.

As a professional entomologist, Dr. Barton's strengths and research efforts focused on insect taxonomy with a fond interest in the Hemiptera. He published articles in various scientific journals including the Arkansas Academy of Science Proceedings, Journals of the Entomological Society of America, Tennessee Entomological Society and other entomological publications. His avid collecting and curatorial work greatly expanded the ASU Insect Museum. He built an extensive collection of hemipterans, particularly pentatomids, from Arkansas, Missouri and other regions of the southern United States.

Dr. Barton served as the Editor for the Arkansas Academy of Science Proceedings from 1989 - 1992, an onerous but much enjoyed task. In addition to the Arkansas Academy of Science, he held membership in the Entomological Society of America, American Registry of Professional Entomologists, The Coleopterists' Society, Tennessee Entomological Society, The Lepidopterists’ Society, New York Entomological Society, Southwestern Association of Naturalists, and Society of Sigma Xi.

Known as Harvey by his colleagues and former students, and Gene by his family and Missourian friends, we have all been privileged by having known him. He has touched our lives, and we will miss him.

--Lynita M. Cooksey and Larry A. Olson (Professor Emeritus), Department of Biological Sciences
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