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DWIGHT MUNSON MOORE 1891 - 1985

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ABSTRACT

Dr. Dwight Munson Moore, long-time Arkansas botanist, was born on 10 December 1891 and died on 19 February 1985. He was a teacher and long-time chairman of the Department of Botany, University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, coming to the University in 1924 and retiring in 1957. Following retirement he taught at Arkansas A & M (now University of Arkansas at Monticello) and Arkansas Tech. His major field of activity was taxonomy of vascular plants; he described two new species, *Delphinium newtonianum* and *Hedyotis australis*. His best-known publication probably is *Trees of Arkansas*, published by the Arkansas Forestry Commission.

HIS LIFE

Dwight Munson Moore, long-time Arkansas botanist and faithful member of the Arkansas Academy of Science, died in Van Buren, Arkansas, on 19 February 1985 at the age of 93. At Thanksgiving 1984 he fell and broke a leg, necessitating a move to a Van Buren nursing home. He did not live to return to his home at Rudy, Crawford County.

Dwight was born in Zanesville, Ohio, on 10 December 1891, the son of Newton Hoffman and Mary Adela (Munson) Moore. His father was employed with a firm that built wagons, while his mother was talented as an artist and particularly gifted at china painting. Dwight had a fraternal twin brother, a sister, and a half-brother.

On 5 September 1922, Dwight married Elizabeth Alice French, of Chicago; she died of injuries from an automobile accident in 1965. A son named Dwight French Moore, now of Little Rock, was born of the marriage. On 10 June 1966, Dwight married Clementine (Winfrey) Kizer, of Rudy, a former student from his Arkansas Tech years. In addition to his wife Clemy and son French, he is survived by a step-daughter, Mary Hesslen, of Ft. Smith; one grandchild; two great-grandchildren; and four step-grandchildren.

Dwight Moore graduated from Denison University, Granville, Ohio, in 1914. He served as high school principal and teacher at Monroeville, Ohio, during 1914-17. In 1917 he was chemistry instructor at Zanesville High School until a December enlistment in the Army. He served on hospital train #58 in France in 1917-18 and as a medical department sergeant in 1918-19. When World War I ended, Dwight remained in France where he studied at the University of Montpellier and received a certificate in 1919. He returned to Ohio in 1919, again teaching at Zanesville High School during 1919-20. He returned to Denison University in 1920-23 as a biology instructor while studying there for a Master's degree in botany (with a minor in chemistry), completing the degree in 1921. He served as a botany instructor at The Ohio State University in 1923-24 while pursuing a doctorate in plant physiology (with a minor in plant chemistry). Upon completion of the doctorate in 1924 he and his wife moved to Fayetteville.

His initial appointment at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, was as assistant professor of botany, however, he was promoted to Professor of Botany and Chairman of the department in 1926. In 1950 the botany program was combined with the bacteriology department and at that time Dr. Delbert Swartz replaced him as department chairman. From 1950-57 Dr. Moore's appointment was as Professor and Curator of Herbarium, the position he held until his retirement at the mandatory retirement age of 65 in 1957.

During his long tenure at UAF he had several noteworthy absences from the campus. During the summer of 1934 he served as Professor of Botany with the Omnibus University, one of the first attempts in education with the so-called "open campus". Bob McCann of Ft. Smith, Arkansas, was Dr. Moore's driver and an examination of the transcript of McCann's personal diary of the Omnibus tour makes fascinating reading. The car used for the trip, a 1925 seven-passenger Packard with about 148,000 miles on it, was nicknamed Betsy. The group, with Dr. Moore in command, left Little Rock on 11 June and arrived in Chicago on 31 July; between those dates they had studied just about everything that came in their path as they moved from Little Rock to Memphis, Vicksburg, New Orleans, Pensacola, Atlanta, Knoxville, Washington D.C., Philadelphia, New York, on into Canada, back to Detroit, and finally to Chicago and back to Fayetteville. The students studied everything from botany to geology, history, economics, industry, etc. It must have been a grand experience as the students and Dr. Moore visited with personalities ranging from George Washington Carver at Tuskegee Institute to Jane Addams at Hull House in Chicago.

In the summers of 1940-42 he was Professor of Plant Ecology with the Ohio Conservation Laboratory. During the summer and fall semester of 1944, as his contribution toward the war effort, Dr. Moore was regional supervisor of the Milkweed Floss Division, War Hemp Industries. That group was involved with the collection of floss from milkweed seeds (genus *Asclepias*), useful as a substitute for kapok. Normal supplies of kapok, used by the Navy in life jackets and other flotation devices, were controlled by the Japanese and substitutes were vital to the American troops. To Dr. Moore's chagrin the war ended before the floss could be removed from the warehouses, but he delighted in telling how he had organized the collection effort, utilizing school children throughout the Midwest as collectors of the milkweed floss.

After retirement from the University Dr. Moore moved to Monticello, teaching forestry in 1957-58 at Arkansas A. & M. (now University of Arkansas at Monticello). In 1958-59 he served as a visiting Smith-Mundt Professor at the University of Saigon (with some additional teaching at the University of Hue), South Vietnam. On returning to the U. S. he continued teaching at A. & M. during 1959-61, until an offer from Arkansas Tech coaxed him back to his beloved Northwest Arkansas. He taught botany and was head of biology at Tech during 1961-66. He led a bus tour to Alaska in summer of 1963 and returned to Fairbanks the following summer to teach a NSF-sponsored course at the University of Alaska.

Following his third retirement from teaching, Dr. Moore moved to El Dorado, Arkansas, where he served in 1966-69 as director of a

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federally-funded project to establish an arboretum on the grounds of the local high school. There he used his unsurpassed knowledge of Arkansas plant localities in finding suitable specimens to transplant into the arboretum.

Dr. Moore was active in many professional organizations. Examination of some of his personal correspondence has shown that he maintained a close working relationship with many of the country's leading taxonomists. Perusal of some of his numerous letters to and from M. L. Fernald, Liberty Hyde Bailey, E. J. Palmer, Julian Steyermark, and others has indicated Dr. Moore's keen eye for detecting variability and a devotion to scholarship of the best kind.

One of Dr. Moore's most prized memberships was that in the Arkansas Academy of Science. The Academy first was organized in Little Rock in 1917, but due to problems inherent with the war years the organization never really got off the ground; in fact, the Academy apparently did not have but one annual business meeting during the period of 1917-32. In October 1932, Dr. Moore organized a meeting for the purpose of reviving the Academy, and the first annual meeting after the reorganization (with him as President) was held in 1933. He served the Academy in a variety of ways during the period of 1934-84; he said in 1984 that he had missed only two meetings of the Academy in that entire period. He was proud and justifiably so of his role in the initiation of the *Proceedings*, first published in 1941 and including three papers authored by Dr. Moore.

Dr. Moore published a number of significant papers during his long career, most of which were of a floristic nature, reflecting the extensive field work done by him throughout the state. He long talked of doing a state flora; attempts at securing National Science Foundation funds for the project first were made, without success, in 1957. By the time of his retirement, however, he had accumulated a card file checklist of plant taxa known to him, based largely on his own collections but also on specimens he had examined at some of the country's larger herbaria. Most of Dr. Moore's personal plant collections were deposited at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville herbarium; Dr. Ed Smith, Curator, has estimated that about half of the 70,000+ specimens there were collected by Dr. Moore.

Dr. Moore gave us the impression that he was most proud of his 1939 paper in which he described *Delphinium newtonianum* as a new species. He loved to tell the story of how he and Dr. David Causey, a University colleague, were traveling Highway 7 south of Jasper, Newton County, on 4 July 1935, when Dwight spotted a blue-flowered plant from the car window—a plant he didn't recognize. This species, endemic to a small area of the Interior Highlands, remains one of the most distinctive members of the genus.

Dr. Moore's publication that has received greatest distribution and use would be his *Trees of Arkansas*. First published in a version by Buchholz and Mattoon in 1924, the little book received Dr. Moore's distinctive treatment in 1950. Since that time it has gone through several revisions and reprintings under his name.

Examination of some of Dr. Moore's correspondence has given insight into him as a person. In a letter to Delbert Swartz, dated 22 June 1935, he wrote: "Summer school is progressing nicely. . . In spite of the seven o'clock hour, I have had very few absences or even tardinesses in that class. Strange as it may seem, I have not yet been late myself." In a later note to Dr. Swartz, dated 17 August 1937, he wrote: "Glad to see you using hotel stationery instead of ours. That's the old economy." Faculty members at Arkansas Tech remember that at the beginning of each school year he gave each instructor a gradebook, a couple of red pencils, and asking them to hold out their hand, gave them a few rubber bands and paper clips. This conservative use of office supplies was much admired by his immediate administrative superior, Truman McEver.

In a letter to the Dean at Arkansas Tech, dated 21 July 1960, after an offer from Arkansas Tech, Dr. Moore wrote: "My work at A. & M. is not at all distasteful, nor is it too heavy. The main advantage of a change to Russellville would be to be closer to the northwestern part of the state. . . As I stated while there, unless there is a very urgent reason to do so, I prefer not to break a signed contract, though I know it is frequently done. If, as the year progresses, you still feel that I might be of service to you, write me at the above address stating your offer

again at that time, and I shall be glad to give it full consideration. In the meantime, there is the possibility that something might happen to me to make it impossible or inadvisable the acceptance of the offer. One never knows just when an old machine may show too much wear. But if I continue to feel as I do now, that is unlikely." The last-mentioned thoughts were written at the approximate age of 70, but he didn't retire from teaching until six years later and continued to work at El Dorado until past the age of 79.

Dwight Moore will be remembered particularly for the large number of students instructed in and inspired with the field of botany through his teaching and speaking engagements throughout the state. He was for many years an extremely popular speaker among the garden clubs and nature groups of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Missouri. He also will be remembered as a humorous and gentle man who had a love for the classics, fine music, poetry recitation, ocarina playing, and good conversation. Those who did not know him well may be surprised to learn that at the age of 15 he made a satin-stitch embroidery picture of a bouquet of flowers which today looks as though it had been made by a professional needlework artist, that in his early years at Fayetteville he served as a church choir director and directed a production of Handel's *Messiah*, or that at the age of 85 he played the piano for church services for a period of six months (at Newberry Chapel near Alma). Those who knew Dr. Moore in his earlier years will remember him for the phenomenal memory of places, dates, and names at his disposal.

The death of Dwight Moore brings to a close something of an era in the annals of Arkansas botany; he had outlived almost all of his contemporaries and had lived to see the field of botany become something very different from the discipline he had entered in the early 1920's. But of course he had shown the necessary flexibility to adjust much earlier; at the time he came to Arkansas his major training primarily had been as a plant physiologist and chemist but apparently found the necessity of becoming a good field botanist more in tune with the state's needs at the time. If we as Academy members are to build on the legacy he has left us we will have to work very diligently to maintain the zeal for the organization, the warmth and concern and genuine interest in our colleagues, and the interest in popularizing our areas of interest with the nonprofessional—that is, if we are to come close to filling his footprints in the sands of time.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Over the years I have made mental as well as written notes of conversations with Dwight Moore. Attempts have been made to verify as many dates as possible. Special thanks are extended to Clemmy Moore, Dr. Leo J. Paulisson, Ethel Simpson of the Special Collections Room at the University of Arkansas Library, and Carolee Hamilton of the Vice-President of Academic Affairs Office at Arkansas Tech; each of these individuals has been helpful in providing information. Of greatest assistance, however, have been the numerous biographical notes left in a variety of places by Dwight Moore himself.

PUBLICATIONS OF DWIGHT M. MOORE

The following list of Dwight M. Moore's publications possibly is not complete, but it is derived largely from a list prepared by Dr. Moore himself in 1961, reason for believing that it is essentially complete. Several of his early publications, though, did not appear on the 1961 list.

1923. A botanical survey of the campus of Denison University. *Jour. Sci. Lab. Denison University* 20:131-154, pl. 17-19 + f. 1-7.
1925. Some potentialities of illumination for influencing plant development. Minutes of the 41st Annual Meeting of the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies, December.

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1929. Breaking the dormancy of tulip bulbs. Privately published abstract of doctoral dissertation completed at The Ohio State University in 1924. Privately published by H. L. Hedrick, Columbus, Ohio.
1939. *Delphinium newtonianum*, a new species from the Arkansas Ozarks. *Rhodora* 41:193-197, pl. 548, 549.
1940. *Selaginella rupestris* (L.) Spring in Arkansas. *Amer. Fern Journ.* 30:50-52.
1941. Some noteworthy fern communities of Arkansas. *Amer. Fern Jour.* 31:63-71.
1941. White-flowered forms of some Arkansas wildflowers. *Proc. Ark. Acad. Sci.* 1:23-27.
1941. A checklist of the ligneous flora of Arkansas. *Proc. Ark. Acad. Sci.* 1:41-55.
1941. A checklist of the grasses of Arkansas. *Proc. Ark. Acad. Sci.* 1:57-62.
1942. Conservation of wild plant life in Arkansas. pp. 246-274 in *Arkansas' Natural Resources - Their Conservation and Use*. The Source Book Committee, University of Arkansas Book Store, Fayetteville.
1947. Further notes on Arkansas pteridophytes. *Proc. Ark. Acad. Sci.* 2:67-70.
1950. Trees of Arkansas. *Ark. Res. Devel. Comm.*, Div. of Forestry and Parks, in cooperation with University of Arkansas. 119 pp.
1950. Tetramerism in *Narcissus*. *Proc. Ark. Acad. Sci.* 3:31.
1950. A New fern record for Arkansas. *Proc. Ark. Acad. Sci.* 3:33-34.
1950. Grassy Lake: a biologist's paradise. *Proc. Ark. Acad. Sci.* 3:41-43.
1951. Some new records for the Arkansas flora. *Proc. Ark. Acad. Sci.* 4:61-63.
1952. Additional new records for the Arkansas flora. *Proc. Ark. Acad. Sci.* 5:91-93.
1956. *Neviusia alabamensis* Gray in Arkansas. *Rhodora* 58:187-191.
1956. *Neviusia alabamensis* Gray (Rosaceae) in Arkansas. *Southw. Nat.* 1:87.
1957. Botanical aspects of the Massard Prairie. *Proc. Acad. Sci.* 11:5-10.
1958. *Mimulus floribundus* Dougl. (Scrophulariaceae) in Arkansas. *Southw. Nat.* 3:217-219.
1959. *Hedyotis australis* (Rubiaceae), a new species from south-central U. S. *Southw. Nat.* 3:208-211. (with Walter H. Lewis).
1959. New records for the Arkansas flora. IV. *Proc. Ark. Acad. Sci.* 12:9-16.
1960. Trees of Arkansas. Rev. ed. Arkansas Forestry Commission, Little Rock. 129 pp.
1961. Revised and annotated catalogue of the grasses of Arkansas. *Proc. Ark. Acad. Sci.* 15:9-25.
1961. Deer browse plants of southern forests. Southern and South-eastern Forest Experiment Station, Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.
1972. Trees of Arkansas. Third edition. Arkansas Forestry Commission, Little Rock. 142 pp.
1981. Trees of Arkansas. Fourth edition. Arkansas Forestry Commission, Little Rock. 142 pp.

MASTER'S DEGREE THESES DIRECTED BY DR. MOORE
(PROBABLY NOT COMPLETE)

1932. Lillian Sedgewell Gregson. The Gramineae of Arkansas.
1935. William Lincoln Giles. The phanerogamic flora of Washington County, Arkansas.
1939. Hcyte Remus Pyle. The herbaceous flora of Magazine Mountain.
1939. Duane Isely. Ecological considerations of certain Arkansas legumes.
1941. Ruth Armstrong. A study of the flora of Massard Prairie with some ecological notes.
1946. Elizabeth Ward McSwain. Compositae of Arkansas.