MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

Professor Emeritus Philip B. Whitford

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is deeply saddened by the passing, on June 20, 1991, of Professor Emeritus Philip B. Whitford of the Department of Biological Sciences at the age of 71. He is survived by his spouse, Professor Emerita Kathryn Whitford, his children Mary and Philip, three grandchildren, three brothers, and other relatives.

Professor Whitford joined the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Extension Division in 1949, after completing the Ph.D. degree at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1948. He retired in 1983 after thirty-four years with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Departments of Botany and Biological Sciences. He served as Chair of the Department of Botany from 1966 to 1969, where he was instrumental in developing the Botany PhD program in 1968. He was also Chair of the Biological Aspects of Conservation Major Committee from 1970 to 1983, as well as chairing the committee overseeing the construction of Lapham Hall. He was especially active in the UWM Field Station Committee, which was responsible for the acquisition of the present field station in the vicinity of the Cedarburg Bog.

Professor Whitford is remembered with great affection by colleagues and students for his teaching and academic achievements. His research was chiefly in prairie and forest ecology, ranging from technical to historical in scope. Collaborating with his spouse, Kathryn, he published a number of articles on local flora, vegetational surveys and the ecological
philosophies of Henry Thoreau, William Ellery Channing and Timothy Flint. In his research, he learned the language of nature; in his publications, he translated his discoveries into the language of scholars; in his teaching, he spoke the language of students. In 1975, Dr. Whitford was honored by the Milwaukee Audubon Society, who recognized his work with the "Professional Environmentalist" award.

Dr. Whitford was a charter member and trustee of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, and was in the forefront of many conservation and natural resource issues. Among the national organizations in which he was active were the Ecological Society of America (Associate Editor of Ecology, 1960-1963 and 1966-1969) and Sigma Xi (Marquette Chapter President, 1968-1969). In Wisconsin he was active in the Botanical Club of Wisconsin, the Milwaukee Chapter of the Audubon Society (Board Member, 1978-1983), and the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters (Co-editor of the Transactions, 1981-1985).

Professor Whitford was generous to his community, students and colleagues. As a leading ecologist, he gave wise counsel to environmental groups as well as to youngsters interested in conservation, and led many field trips for persons of all ages. A thoughtful and effective voice for conservation in Wisconsin, a determined and eloquent champion of environmental honesty and good sense, and a loyal friend of both students and colleagues, Philip Whitford touched the lives of many, ecologists and non-ecologists alike.

Professor Emeritus Robert L. Costello
Professor Newtol Press
Professor Emeritus Peter J. Salamun
Professor Emeritus Forest Stearns
Professor Charles M. Weise

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