

IN MEMORIAM: DAVID HARVEY PENGELLY

March 22, 1922 - October 31, 2004

The ancient Roman Naturalist Lucretius said: “No single thing abides but all must flow, Fragment to fragment clings, the things thus grow, Until we know and name them and by degrees they melt and are no more the things we know”.

Knowing and naming insects was Dave’s life-long passion. This passion was manifest in his commitment to The Entomological Society of Ontario, to the science of Entomology, and to his teaching.

Dave’s life of research and teaching involved his own take on the natural history of insects. His beginnings were with the megachilids, camping with Fran and their two young boys in the Bruce Peninsula among the Black Widow Spiders and Massassauga rattlers which are now much less abundant.

Dave was Secretary Treasurer of the Society for as long as present members can remember. With his appointment, he became the curator of the university insect collection, which had its origins with the Entomological Society in the nineteenth century. He fathered the growth, preservation, housing, and display of one of the largest insect collections in Canadian universities. Few really knew what he accomplished unassisted.

First and foremost for Dave was his teaching of Systematics and the Natural History of Insects. He had the heaviest teaching load in the department. His efforts and teaching abilities were recognized when he received the Outstanding Teacher Award. All his students held him in high regard and affection.

Dave had a great sense of humor and was a great storyteller. Through the many stories he told, the origins and inspiration for Dave’s success as a teacher could be traced. De-mobbed from the air force, Dave became an undergraduate at the University of Alberta. Here Dave was immediately attracted to the great teacher and mentor, Professor E. Harold Strickland, himself a WW1 veteran who was the sole entomologist and head of department for many years.

In remembering David Pengelly, we each relive the very best of university traditions ... the tradition of one generation inspiring and mentoring the next as companions in this great enterprise. This memorial issue of the journal is an eloquent example of this tradition.

Stuart E. Dixon