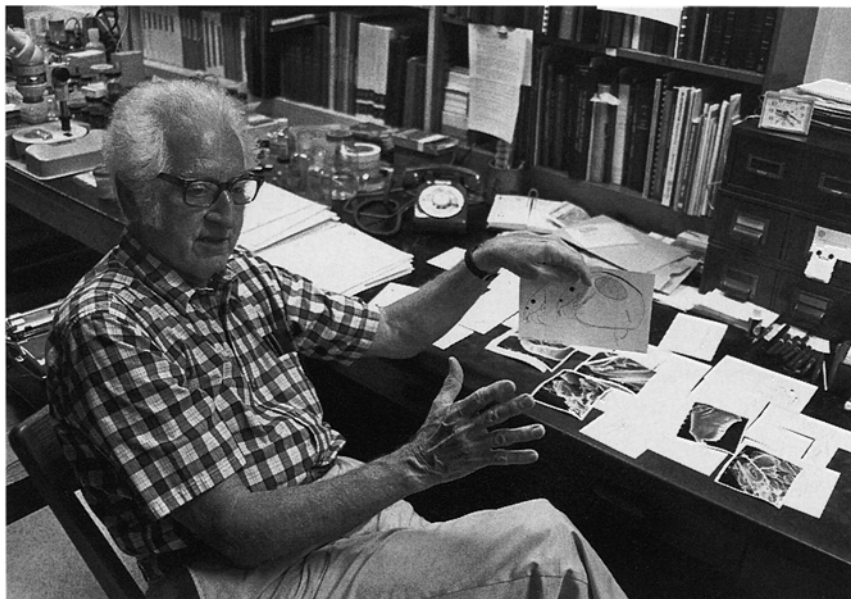


In memoriam

David Grover Frey
(October 10, 1915–April 1, 1992)



The limnological and paleoecological community lost one of its most distinguished and dedicated scholars and advocates on April 1, 1992, with the passing of David G. Frey, Professor Emeritus at Indiana University.

Dave was born to Grover C. & Henriette (Zimmermann) Frey in Hartford, Wisconsin. His formative years were spent in a land of lakes and streams, in a landscape shaped by the glaciers, in a state with a rich tradition in ecology and considered by many as the cradle of the American conservation movement. He became an avid naturalist and collector at an early age.

He matriculated to the University of Wisconsin where he earned his B.A. in 1936, his M.A. in 1938, and his Ph.D. in 1940.

His early work, both in Wisconsin and with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (1940–1945), focused on the ecology of fish. In 1946, while serving with the U.S. Naval Reserve, he investigated World War II damage to the fisheries of the Philippines. The international and applied scope of his research was stimulated by this assignment.

He was appointed as an Associate Professor of Zoology at the University of North Carolina in 1946. During his four years there, his research moved in significant new directions. His investigations of the unique and enigmatic 'Carolina Bay' lakes led him into biogeography, the evolutionary origins of faunal assemblages, and studies of the formation and environmental history of lake basins. This work required analysis of the paleoecological information contained in the sediments of the lakes. This pioneering paleoecological work stimulated a significant expansion and refinement of the field and he became one of the most respected and imaginative exponents of paleoecology/paleolimnology in the world.

During his time in North Carolina he met and married S. Elizabeth (Libby) Jones. Libby and Dave had three children, Barbara, Katharine, and Karl.

Dave joined the Indiana University faculty in 1950. At Indiana, his research became truly international in scope and he forged the foundations of modern paleolimnology. He was the first to recognize the potential of the Cladocera for paleoecological work and pioneered techniques for analyzing their fragmentary remains. His lead was followed by co-workers all over the world. Equally important, he stressed that a precise understanding of the classification, evolutionary relationships, distribution patterns, and ecology of the Cladocera was necessary if paleoecological reconstructions were to be meaningful. Realizing that very little of this essential information existed, he initiated a comprehensive study of the most important cladoceran family, the Chydoridae. This monumental undertaking led him all over the world collecting specimens, gathering ecological data, visiting collections, working with colleagues, and organizing and participating in innumerable international meetings. His counsel was sought by colleagues the world over; he shared his ideas, collections, and laboratory facilities freely with a steady stream of visitors.

He was especially concerned with stimulating scientific research in the less developed countries. As a consequence, he devoted much time to visiting colleagues in those countries and arranging ways for them to work in his laboratory for extended periods of time.

He was a prolific scholar, with over 170 publications, yet his work was characterized by its extraordinary attention to detail. He was, in the best sense of the word, a perfectionist. This tradition of scholarship was passed on to 36 graduate students, plus the many post-doctoral fellows and foreign scholars that spent time in his laboratory.

As a consequence of his research and involvement with colleagues and scientific societies, he was chosen for many honored positions. For example, he served as President of the American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, President of the American Quaternary Association, President of the International Association of Limnology, Vice President of the American Microscopical Society, Senior Vice President of Societas Internationalis Limnologiae, and the Board of Trustees of the Institute of Ecology. He also served as a member of many international commissions, most notably the International Joint Commission on the Environment. He served as senior editor for most of the major limnological and ecological journals.

He has been rewarded many times for the excellence of his scholarship. He received a Guggenheim and two Fulbright awards. He was elected as a Foreign Member of the Royal Danish Academy of Science and Letters. He was awarded the prestigious Einar Naumann – August Thienemann Medal of the International Association of Limnology (only the fourth American so honored since the society was founded in 1922) and a Certificate of Commendation by the Ecological Society of America.

He will be missed for all of these reasons, as well as for his devotion to the natural world, and his friendship.

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