

# FOND MEMORIES

During the time that Perla 8 was being prepared, two men that have contributed much to our knowledge of North American stoneflies passed away. Although neither was a Plecoptera specialist, both collected many stoneflies over the years and provided valuable encouragement to budding plecopterologists.

## George F. Knowlton (1901–1987)

George Knowlton received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Utah State University. He later studied at the University of Minnesota and in 1932 received his Ph.D. degree from Ohio State University under Dwight Delong.

Dr. Knowlton was best known for his studies on aphids but he collected widely and sent specimens from Utah and surrounding states to specialists throughout North America. Insect specimens collected by George Knowlton are present in every major insect collection in North America.

In the 1930's George sent stoneflies to Theodore Frison at the Illinois Natural History Survey. Frison published on several species that George collected and in 1937 honored him by naming *Diura knowltoni* from specimens collected from Logan, Utah.

Then in 1938 "Notes on Utah Plecoptera and Trichoptera" Entomol. News 49:284–286. was published by G.F. Knowlton and F.C. Harmston, based on specimens that they had sent to T.H. Frison and H.H. Ross. However, George continued to encourage others to study stoneflies and he had a profound influence on the later works of A.R. Gaufin, A.V. Nebeker, R.W. Baumann and C.R. Nelson.

During Peter Zwick's visit to the United States in March and April, Peter came to the BYU campus in Provo, Utah to give a seminar. George Knowlton attended the seminar and then had lunch with several friends and aquatic entomologists. He visited the M.L. Bean Museum and we took some fine photographs. Then almost exactly a week later George came home at noon for a nap, because he was feeling poorly, and never again awakened.

## Donald G. Denning (1911–1988)

Don received his doctoral degree in 1941 from the University of Minnesota. He served as a disease control specialist for the U.S. Public Health Service during World War II and joined the staff at the University of Wyoming, when the war ended. In 1951, he switched to private industry and he spent most of his professional life with Chemagro Corporation. His responsibilities included supervision of agricultural chemicals in ten Western States and Mexico.

Caddisflies (Trichoptera) were Don's special interest and he named numerous species from North America. His willingness to identify Trichoptera adults for friends and colleagues was much appreciated. His knowledge of the Trichoptera fauna of Western North America will be sorely missed.

While traveling for Chemagro, Don would often stop at universities throughout the West and visit colleagues. He was especially good at encouraging graduate students in the field of entomology. I shall always treasure the visits that he made to the University of Utah, when nearly all of his time was spent with a young student of aquatic insects.

In 1955, from his beloved state of California, Stan Jewett named a stonefly species after Don. *Isoperla denningi* is a fitting reminder of the many stonefly specimens that

Don collected in California and throughout the West. These specimens make up valuable parts of the stonefly collections at the Smithsonian Institution, California Academy of Sciences, Brigham Young University, and Oregon State University.

Don was active right up until the end. He collected in the San Diego area over the Christmas holidays in December, 1987, continued to identify specimens in January and February and met with Don Burdick and discussed a potential publication the weekend before he died.

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