

Obituary in honor of the late
Professor Arden R. Gaufin

1911-1997

By: R.W. Baumann

Arden R. Gaufin was born in Salt Lake City, Utah December 25, 1911 and passed away on January 8, 1997. He married Ruth Lund in September 1936 and they were the parents of two children: Richard and Marilyn. Arden attended the University of Utah where he received his BS and MS degrees and then he went to Iowa State University, where he received his PhD in 1950. His doctoral dissertation was a study of the production of the bottom fauna of the Provo River, Utah.

He was very interested in the idea of using aquatic macroinvertebrates as indicators of the relative health of flowing water ecosystems. His first position after graduating was at the Public Health Service Environmental Health Center at Cincinnati, Ohio. There he met Clarence Tarzwell and together they championed the idea that aquatic insects were really twenty-four hour instream indicators of stream conditions. In fact, he served on the Public Health Service National Advisory Council which established water pollution control standards in the 1960's. It was during this time that Arden became one of the early members of the Midwest Benthological Society. Arden was an avid supporter of this organization that is now the very successful North American Benthological Society.

Arden taught at the University of Utah and University of Montana where he was Professor of Biology. He also spent many summers from the late 1950's to the early 1970's at the University of Montana Biological Station, Flathead Lake Montana. These summers in Montana and the nearby states and Canadian provinces were some of the highlights of his life.

When Arden became interested in stoneflies he contacted several colleagues such as John Hanson, Stan Jewett, Bill Ricker, and Herb Ross for help and advice. They encouraged him and the result was a positive surge of interest in the stonefly fauna of the Intermountain West that extended into the rest of North America. The earliest papers that Arden wrote on Plecoptera were published in 1955, (The Stoneflies of Utah) and 1956 (The Stoneflies of Ohio). Although these were only lists, they began what was to be a fruitful career as Arden encouraged promising students to study his beloved stoneflies. In fact, many

colleagues would say that Arden's greatest contribution to plecopterology is the many students that he influenced. He was always ready to listen to new ideas and would willingly seek funding to support a new graduate student. His help

extended not only to those that are included as co-authors in the following list of stonefly references but to many others that studied other aspects of aquatic biology. Arden helped many students begin successful careers in biology and for this we owe him a debt of gratitude.



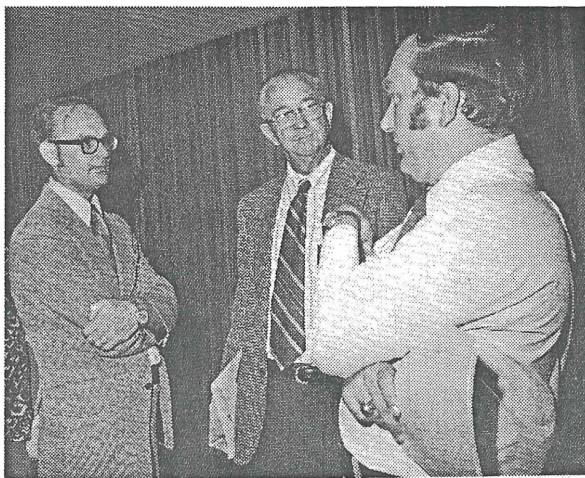
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Drs. Bill Stark, Arden Gaufin and Charles Nelson at the 1974 International Plecoptera Symposium in Washington, D.C.

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