



**Dr. Donald Wayne Webb**

By R. Edward DeWalt

It is with great sadness that I inform the community of the passing of Donald W. Webb on Wednesday, September 5, 2012. He was 73 years old. Don is survived by Lois, whom many of you know; his daughters Janice (Mark) Wettstone and Diane (David) McClain; grandchildren, Maggie McClain, Bradley McClain, Evan Wettstone, Ryan (Laura) McClain and Christopher McClain; and great-grandchildren, Tyler and Aiden McClain. Don loved his wife and family and always spoke of them with great pride.

Don began his career at the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) in 1966 and retired from the INHS in 2007 after 40+ years of distinguished service. In that time, Don authored or coauthored nearly 100 journal articles, book chapters, monographs, and proceedings. Don was heavily involved with the North American Benthological Society (NABS, now Society for Freshwater Science), serving as Treasurer and long-time (30 years) chair of the Literature Review Committee. The latter often required his considerable powers of political persuasion (well, more like crusty, straight talking for which he was famous!) to compel colleagues to take on subject editorships (of which he had two himself: Chironomidae and Ceratopogonidae), keep the subject editors on deadline, edit the different formats that came into him, and send in the final product to NABS. With the help of Ronald Hellenthal, these yearly bibliographies have been turned

into a searchable database. For his dedication to NABS he was given the Distinguished Service Award in 1999.

Don also worked tirelessly on aquatic Diptera keys for North America. He and Warren U. Brigham wrote the Aquatic Diptera chapter in the “Aquatic Insects and Oligochaetes of North and South Carolina”. This was a major undertaking at the time and laid the groundwork for aquatic Diptera chapters in all editions of the Introduction to the Aquatic Insects of North America. In the latest edition (Merritt et al. 2008), Richard W. Merritt and Don produced keys to family for aquatic Diptera pupae and adults.

Don also published several faunistic and conservation related papers on the Plecoptera of Illinois. He was one of those responsible for beginning study of the changes in the Illinois stonefly fauna. His major contribution to this was his “The winter stoneflies of Illinois (Insecta: Plecoptera): 100 years of change” published in 2002, repeating the work of Theodore H. Frison conducted early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In that article, Don documented the decline of several winter stoneflies in Illinois, and in some cases demonstrated that weedy species were becoming more abundant. Don also coauthored five other papers documenting extinctions (*Isoperla conspicua* Frison and *Alloperla roberti* Surdick), extirpations, and range loss of summer and spring emerging stoneflies. I am personally indebted to Don for his help with these projects during the early part of my career.

Some interesting anecdotes: Rosemary Mackay wrote in her history of NABS “. . . Don liked to come across as a crusty curmudgeon but he always had a twinkle in his eye to let everyone know that it was all in good fun.” Don had a rejoinder to Will Rogers’ saying that “I never met a man I didn’t like.” A bumper sticker on Don’s office door stated, “Will Rogers never met Bobby Knight.”

A portion of this article was abstracted from: Warwick, C. 2013. In Memorium-Don Webb. INHS Reports, Winter 2013 (409), 3.

#### **A list of stonefly publications authored or co-authored by Don.**

- Webb, D. W. 1980. Primary insect types in the Illinois Natural History Survey Collection, exclusive of the Collembola and the Thysanoptera. Bulletin of the Illinois Natural History Survey 32: 55-191
- Harris, M. A. and D. W. Webb. 1994. The stoneflies (Plecoptera) of Illinois revisited. Journal of the Kansas Entomological Society 67: 340-346.
- DeWalt, R. E., D. W. Webb and M. A. Harris. 1999. Summer Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Trichoptera (EPT) species richness and community structure in the lower Illinois River Basin of Illinois. Great Lakes Entomologist 32: 115-132.
- DeWalt, R. E., D. W. Webb and T. N. Kompare. 2001. The *Perlesta placida* (Hagen) complex (Plecoptera: Perlidae) in Illinois, new state records, distributions, and an identification key. Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington 103: 207-216.
- Webb, D. W. 2002. The winter stoneflies of Illinois (Insecta: Plecoptera): 100 years of change. Bulletin of the Illinois Natural History Survey 36: 195-274.

- DeWalt, R. E., D. W. Webb and A. M. Soli. 2002. The *Neoperla clymene* (Newman) complex in Illinois, new state records, distributions, and an identification key. *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 104: 126-137.
- DeWalt, R. E., C. Favret and D. W. Webb. 2005. Just how imperiled are aquatic insects? A case study of stoneflies (Plecoptera) in Illinois. *Annals of the Entomological Society of America* 98: 941-950.

## MEMBER NEWS

**Drs. J. Manuel Tierno de Figueroa** and **Manuel J. López-Rodríguez**, University of Granada (Spain), carry on working on Plecoptera nymphal biology and ecology in Spain and Italy, in collaboration with **Drs. J.M. Luzón-Ortega** (Hydraena S.L.L., Spain), **S. Fenoglio** and **T. Bo** (Università del Piemonte Orientale, Italy), **R. Fochetti** (Università della Tuscia, Italy), and **J. Garrido** (Universidad de Vigo, Spain). Moreover, physiological studies on digestive enzyme activities and antioxidant defences of stoneflies are being carried out in collaboration with **Drs. A. Sanz** and **C. Trenzado** (University of Granada, Spain). Also, with **Dr. J.M. Luzón-Ortega**, they are studying the drumming calls of several species of stoneflies from Spain, as well as the distribution of the stoneflies in the Iberian Peninsula. A study on DNA quantification and a phylogenetic study on the cavernicolous stonefly *Protonemura gevi* are being made in collaboration with some colleagues of the Department of Genetic from the University of Granada (Spain). They are also working at the community level (mainly on trophic webs) in several streams from southern Iberian Peninsula. JMTdeF is also collaborating with **Dr. T. Derka** (Comenius University, Slovakia) in some nymphal biology studies of species inhabiting streams in Slovakia and, punctually, in taxonomy of stoneflies from SE Venezuela. Finally, they are also collaborating with some other plecopterologists and directing or co-directing the researches of **B. Gaetani**, **I. Peralta-Maraver**, **J. Rúa** and **P. Vannucci**.

## STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PLECOPTEROLOGISTS

### Changes in the Standing Committee of the International Society of Plecopterologists

The Standing Committee of the International Society of Plecopterologists is responsible for ensuring the continuity of the International Symposia on Plecoptera. The committee also has the overall responsibility for the Perla funds and for allocating travel scholarships for attending the International Symposia. Sadly, **Dr. Ken Stewart**, a long-standing member of the committee, recently passed away, and for various reasons **Drs Y. Isobe**, **P. Harper** and **C. Froehlich** wished to step down from the standing committee. We have now appointed three new members, **Drs Mayumi Yoshimura**, **Dávid Murányi** and **R. Edward DeWalt**. All have an avid interest in Plecoptera and will certainly be an asset to the Committee. **Dr. Yoshimura** works in the Biodiversity Research Group of the Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, Kyoto, Japan. She has published many papers on the distribution, ecology and physiology of stoneflies. She also did an excellent job as secretary general of the recent Wakayama conference. **Dr. Murányi** works at the

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