

OBITUARIES

A FAREWELL TO STANLEY (STAN) WESLEY SZCZYTKO

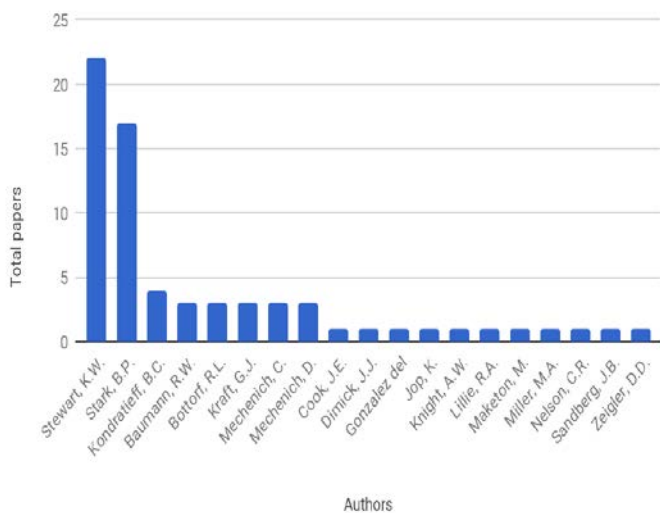
R. Edward DeWalt and Boris C. Kondratieff

It is with great sadness that we share with you the death of our longtime friend and colleague Dr. Stanley (Stan) Wesley Szczytko, age 68, of Marshfield, Wisconsin. Stan was taken from us on August 30, 2017 while he was enjoying one of his great passions in life, sailing his 42 foot boat on Lake Superior (see photo, credit J. B. Sandberg). A brief report of the circumstances of his death was printed in the [Superior Telegram](#) newspaper and a lovingly written and thorough obituary was provided in the [Stevens Point Journal](#).



Stan learned plecopterology from one of the best in the business, the late Ken Stewart. He received both his master’s degree (Stoneflies of Texas) and PhD (Holomorphology of Western North American *Isoperla*....) at North Texas State University (now University of North Texas) with Ken as mentor. Collection records from the time show that he was an avid collector, sharing trips with Ken and other graduate students such as Bill Stark (coming world stonefly expert), David Zeigler (early drumming researcher), Randall Fuller (up and coming aquatic ecologist), Gerald Atmar (fish ecologist), and others. Some of these relationships lasted his entire career, especially those he held with Ken and Bill, with whom he coauthored 39 of 45 papers (see below). These contributions spanned topics as diverse as faunistic

surveys, species descriptions, revisions, ecology of stoneflies, and drumming behavior of stoneflies.



While Stan’s taxonomic contributions covered many stonefly groups, his passion was for the subfamily Isoperlinae. His study on the western North American *Isoperla* (Szczytko & Stewart 1979) was a breakthrough that allowed many stonefly taxonomists and ecologists to successfully identify both larvae and adults of this difficult genus. Stan was part of a team of ambitious

researchers who proposed to produce keys to all the adult stoneflies of the eastern Nearctic. To date, portions of six families have been completed in two compilations that group Peltoperlidae, Pteronarcyidae, Taeniopterygidae (Stark & Armitage 2000), and Chloroperlidae, Perlidae, and Perlodinae (Stark & Armitage 2004). Leuctridae, Nemouridae, Capniidae and Isoperlinae have taken considerably longer to complete. Stan's commitments at University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point (UWSP) were weighty, but he continued work on the Isoperlinae all along. In 2015, the wait was over. With the publication of Szczytko & Kondratieff (2015a, b), a new standard was set for work in the Isoperlinae: 22 new species described, 61 species exquisitely illustrated, supporting light and scanning imagery provided, and a host of distribution data released for the subfamily. These works allow the identification of many species that were hopeless to work with prior to this time. Like all good revisions they stand the test of time and allow others to more efficiently find new species, associate life stages, and improve distributional information (Beaty et al. 2017, Verdone & Kondratieff 2016, Verdone & Kondratieff 2017)!

By 2013, Stan had retired with emeritus status from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, College of Natural Resources where he worked for 33 years running a large aquatic laboratory, teaching undergraduates, mentoring graduate students, and managing many large grants from the state's Department of Natural Resources. In that time, he had received National Science Foundation funding for relating phylogeny of Plecoptera with drumming signals (DEB-8505881), amassed over 2000 vials of completely curated stonefly specimens, and accumulated thousands of live, still, and scanning electron images of stoneflies. Always planning ahead, Stan donated his specimens to Brigham Young University and the Illinois Natural History Survey in April 2013 and his reprints and photographs to the Illinois Natural History Survey in April 2017 for safe keeping. We should all be grateful for the forethought he gave to protecting his legacy. Stan's early demise is tragic, but let us focus on the look of his beaming face that night in 2015 in Aberdeen, Scotland, when he received the Lifetime Achievement Award. We could all sense that he felt greatly appreciated by his peers.

Stan's UWSP family, persons who loved and respected him very much, have created a memorial scholarship in his honor. If you wish to donate in his name you may mail a check to UWSP Foundation, 2100 Main Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481. Alternatively, donations are accepted online at <https://give.uwsp.edu/give-now>. For both, stipulate "Other Specific Fund" and "**Stan Szczytko Memorial Scholarship**".

Photographs were provided by Dr. C. Riley Nelson and Dr. Bill Stark.

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Dr. Stanley W. Szczytko with Dr. Ignac Sivec to the left and on the right Dr. C. Riley Nelson and Dr. Bill P. Stark.



Isoperla stewarti Szczytko & Kondratieff, 2015, Smyth Co., Virginia, U.S.A. Photo: Dr. Bill P. Stark



Dr. Stan Szczytko receiving a plaque of appreciation for 15 years of service to the North American Benthological Society (Society of Freshwater Science) from his mentor Dr. Ken Stewart in 2003.

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