

Resolution of Respect

John F. Reed 1911–1997

John F. Reed passed away on 4 December 1997 in Durango, Colorado, where he and his wife Beatrice had lived since his retirement, in 1985, from the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay. John was born 18 November 1911 in Rockport, Maine to Marshall and Linthel Reed. He grew up knowing and loving the forests of New England. John received his AB degree in biology from Dartmouth College in 1933, and applied to Duke University for graduate studies in forestry and botany, where he received his M.A. degree in 1935 and his Ph.D. degree a year later. C. F. Korstian in Forestry and H. J. Oosting in Botany were his major professors. His dissertation, entitled “Root and shoot growth of shortleaf and loblolly pine in relation to certain environmental factors,” was published as Duke School of Forestry Publication Number 4. John married Mildred Stites, a fellow botany graduate student, in 1934, and together they raised their three sons: John, Robert, and James. Mildred (Millie) passed away in 1967.

Upon graduation, John received a faculty position in natural sciences at Amarillo Junior College, Amarillo, Texas. After two years, he accepted a position as instructor of biology at Baldwin Wallace College, Berea, Ohio. He advanced in rank to Associate Professor before moving to the University of Wyoming in 1946, where he served as Assistant Professor to Professor, developing a strong program in ecology on the campus and managing the summer University of Wyoming Science Field Camp at

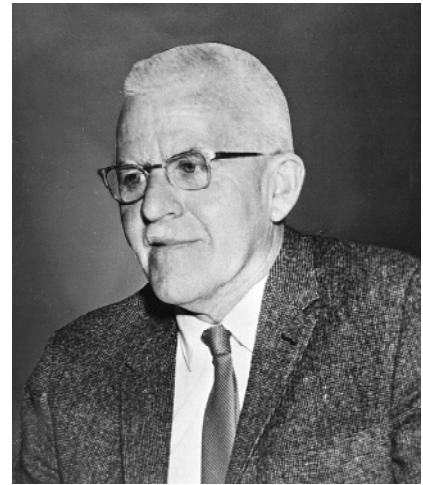
10,000 feet in the Medicine Bow Mountains. John influenced Dwight Billings to teach the plant ecology course at Science Camp in 1954 and for many years thereafter.

From July 1951 to March 1952, the family lived in Africa. A team of U.S. and Belgian scientists participated in a soil and vegetation survey of the Mosso River Valley in Ruanda-Urundi (now Burundi), sponsored by the U.S. Economic Cooperation Administration and Belgian I.N.E.A.C.

John developed his administrative skills during these years, starting with his Deanship of men at Baldwin Wallace College, 1940–1946, and his management of Science Camp for five summers. In 1956, the family moved to the University of New Hampshire, where John was Dean of the Graduate School, Special Assistant to the President, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, Vice President, and Acting President in 1961–1962. From 1962 to 1970, he was President and Professor of Biology at Fort Lewis College, Durango, Colorado. He played a key role in moving the college from a two-year to a four-year institution and fostered its outreach to native Americans.

Through the years, John Reed served the Ecological Society of America in many ways, most significantly from 1953 to 1957 as Secretary, and in 1963 as President.

John’s final academic years (1970–1983) were spent at the University of Wisconsin, Green Bay, where he was Professor of Ecosystem Analysis and of Environmental Studies. It was during these years that he contributed so much to the Ecological Society and to biology in general on the national scene.



From 1954 to 1963, John was a member of the National Advisory Dental Research Council, NIH; 1963–1965 member of the Committee on Plans and Objectives for Higher Education of the American Council on Education; and 1963–1969 member of the Advisory Committee Program in Dental Research for college students of the American Dental Association. In 1969–1970, he spent a year at NSF as Section Head of Environmental and Systematics Biology. In 1971, he was a member of the U.S. delegation to the Man and the Biosphere Conference of UNESCO in Paris, France. One of John’s most important personally rewarding contributions was his service from 1972 to 1974 as Chairman of the Executive Committee, U.S. National Committee for the International Biological Program (I.B.P.). He followed Frank Blair in this capacity. This was a committee within the National Research Council/National Academy of Sciences, which by 1972 sought to impose draconian change in the last 18 months of the 5-year U.S.-I.B.P. Having accepted the Chairmanship, John

sought to aid the interdisciplinary goals of the U.S.-I.B.P. and to strengthen its ecological goals while also meeting the NRC/NAS goals in a way very different from the confrontation some people expected. John also served (1972–1973) as a consultant to the Council on Environmental Quality and the Federal Council on the role of ecology in the federal government; the U.S. Committee for Man and the Biosphere (1973–1975); member of the NAS-NRC

committee on International Environmental Programs (1973–1975); member of the steering committee for the Man and Biosphere Program (1977–1978); and the Great Lakes Research Facility advisory council (1978–1979).

John received two Distinguished Service Awards from Fort Lewis College for his leadership, the first in 1978 and the second in 1985. He also received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Sea Grant Institute of the University of Wisconsin.

As his wife, Beatrice, wrote, “John was a wonderful friend, a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.” He left a love of books, botany, and knowledge to his family and those of us who knew him well.

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