

ESA HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMITTEE

(ESTABLISHED 1944)

NEWSLETTER

*Resources for the history of the Ecological Society of America
and the history of ecology and allied sciences*

No. 8

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News from the Archives at the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia

Steven Armour from the Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of Georgia, reports that ESA's records are now totally up to date (although new material is being added all the time). The finding aid is online at: <http://hmfa.libs.uga.edu/hmfa/view?docId=ead/UA97-061-ead.xml>

University of Georgia Archives is grateful to ESA for its assistance in providing funds for a student intern to complete this project. ESA's archives at Georgia consist of 148 boxes of correspondence, reports, and research materials related to the diverse activities of the Ecological Society of America. The records are primarily associated with 43 prominent members of ESA, including Stanley Auerbach, Frank Golley and others.

Closely related to ESA's archives at Georgia are the archives of The Institute of Ecology, the Eugene P.



Odum Papers (partly catalogued) and the Frank B. Golley Papers. These other collections complement ESA's archives and provide greater incentive for researchers to spend time at the Hargrett Library's beautiful facilities in the new Richard B. Russell building (workroom at left).

Work has begun on the Frank B. Golley materials, a large collection of great importance for the history of ESA and of modern ecology. Papers relating to Golley's teaching and writing are now open and the finding aid in online:

<http://hmfa.libs.uga.edu/hmfa/view?docId=ead/UA02-040-ead.xml>

Steve reports that the papers relating to Golley's directorship of the Institute of Ecology at the University of Georgia are getting close to opening. Once all its collections are catalogued, the University of Georgia will be a major center for historical research relating to ESA and ecology in general.

***For ESA Officers and Section, Chapter, and Committee Chairs:
University of Georgia Welcomes Your Contributions to ESA's Archives***

For advice on sending records from ESA's sections, chapters, and committees, please see the *Historical Records Committee's Archiving Guidelines* on our website's archives page (under Archiving ESA Records) at: <http://esa.org/history/archives/archiving-esa-related-materials/>

Annual reports, papers or minutes that are published in the *Bulletin* or in one of the journals do not need to be sent to Georgia, for all ESA publications are routinely archived at the Hargrett Library. However, there is much more to ESA's archives than routine reports.

For example, the Charles C. Adams papers within ESA's archives offer much insight into the early history of ESA and Adams's efforts to build and diversify the young society. The Stanley Auerbach papers within ESA's archives are excellent sources of information on environmental problems in the 1950s and 1960s and on ESA's responses to emerging environmental concerns. ESA's holdings at Georgia help to document ESA's role in promoting ecological research, education, and environmental stewardship, among other things.

We encourage past officers of ESA as well as section, chapter, and committee chairs to think broadly about what materials may be worth sending to ESA's archives. Unpublished materials, photographs, speeches and lectures, and anything relating to programs or activities (including correspondence of officers) would be suitable for the archives. The archives should continue to record the range of ESA's interests and activities as it enters its second century.

Digital files: One recent change is that the University of Georgia Archives now accepts digital files. Steven Armour has created a dropbox to receive digital materials. It is advisable to contact him in advance (sarmour@uga.edu) so he knows what to expect. He will need to know who is sending the files and where they are coming from (which can be indicated by the name given to the parent directory and the files). If needed, include a Word file explaining what is being sent and providing contact information. Files can be submitted to Steven's Dropbox here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/request/Hjf4CFFeZDaPfRoWXRWX>

If you have official ESA materials to transmit by mail to the University of Georgia, please contact:

Steven Armour, University Archives and Electronic Records Archivist
Email: sarmour@uga.edu
Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library,
University of Georgia Archives,
300 Hull Street, Athens GA 30602.
Telephone: (706) 542-0667

Your personal papers: The University of Georgia collects personal papers from ESA members, but you might also want to consult your local archives about donating your professional or family papers. A prudent measure is to include funds for processing your papers as part of your estate planning. The *Society of*

American Archivists website offers general guidelines on donating personal and family papers or organizational records: go to <http://www2.archivists.org/> and look under “About Archives” on the homepage.

Spotlight on New Collections: Ruth M. Patrick, Eminent Ecologist

Ruth Patrick’s citation for the Eminent Ecologist Award (1972, photograph below) noted that she was one of the very few Americans “completely trusted by both the academic and industrial communities.” She also received the John and Alice Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement in 1975. Dr. Patrick remained connected to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia until her death in 2013 at age 105, and her papers at the Academy are now being catalogued. A finding aid is available at:

http://hdl.library.upenn.edu/1017/d/pacscl/ANSP_ANSPcoll974

As described in the finding aid:

“Overall, this collection spans the years 1908 to 2012. The records include correspondence, administrative records, scientific papers, lectures, speeches and publications, as well as field records, research records, and scientific data. This collection also contains the files of associates who worked closely with Dr. Patrick on a variety of research projects and, in many cases, also includes reference materials. These records relate to Dr. Patrick’s career as a botanist, limnologist, phycologist, and one of the world’s leading authorities on diatoms. They document her activities as a consultant and advisor to both industry and government, and her collegial activities with peers throughout the world. In large part, these records document her pioneering efforts to monitor water quality, including the design of a method for comprehensive environmental monitoring that would quantify the effects of pollution on fresh water and estuarine ecologies.”



This rich archival collection will stimulate a lot of work on the history of ecology, but one hopes that her field records, research records and scientific data may also be of use to future ecologists. The great challenge is to figure out how best to preserve and make available records that may be useful for future scientific research.

The Historical Records Committee sponsored an Organized Oral Session on this theme at the Ft. Lauderdale meeting in August 2016. We invite your ideas and suggestions about how to respond to this challenge (send responses to Sharon Kingsland, email: sharon@jhu.edu). (See “The Importance of History and Historical Records for Understanding the Anthropocene,” January 2017. *Bulletin of Ecol. Soc. Amer.* 98(1): 64-71.)

The HRC newsletter is a quarterly and welcomes contributions from HRC members and friends. Please send Newsletter items to Sharon Kingsland at sharon@jhu.edu