

THE MOUNTAIN LAKE ECHOES OF 1947

GREETINGS AND BEST WISHES!

The session 1947 marked a return to full activity after the lull brought on by the war. There were 66 students, investigators and staff members present, about half of whom attended both terms. Also about half of these were attending the Station for the first time. Roughly 40% came from Virginia, 40% from other southern states and 20% from northern and western states. The "drones" brought our total number to 85 for the first term and 90 for the second.

Several applications for cottages had to be turned down because they were not available. Next year assignments will not be made until March 15. The bulletin with next session's announcements should be ready for distribution during February. Watch for your copy and let me know if you have friends to whom one should be sent. The curriculum will probably consist of courses in Bacteriology, Mycology, Plant Anatomy, Plant Morphology, Entomology, Helminthology, Invertebrates and Vertebrates.

I wish to thank those present last summer for their fine spirit of cooperation, and to assure all of my earnest desire to improve the Station's usefulness. Helpful suggestions will be appreciated. Send them to me, care Biology Laboratory, University of Virginia.

B.D.R.

ACADEMIC NOTES

1st Term:

Plant Geography - Dr. John H. Davis, Jr. Professor of Botany, University of Florida -

One of the four best courses taught during the first term. This course involved extensive field trips to points of widely varied nature found on and around our mountain. From Bald Knob to the Cranberry Bog plant ecology was emphasized; not only that, but the Sneaking Snooper several times overheard the students discussing global distributions at meal times.

Arthropods - Dr. Horton H. Hobbs, Associate Professor of Biology, University of Virginia -

Class motto: "Hand me a bottle, quick!"

Class Color: Fast Green

Mascot: Maxie Millipede

Pastime: Slidemaking

Advice: "Catch Crayfish!" (Unanimous)

Result: An excellent course - P.S. All grades were good.

Invertebrate Zoology - Dr. Bruce D. Reynolds, Professor of Zoology, University of Virginia -

Collection and study of worms, bugs, things, etc. provided the class with a lot of knowledge. Thus we have stated the purpose and accomplishment of this course.

NOTICE - Would the person whose examination read: Size? - Uncertain! Reproduction:--Occasionally! please claim ownership?

All kidding aside, Invertebrate ranks as a gold star course.

Plant Cytology - Dr. Gordon B. Wolcott, Associate Professor of Biology, Madison College -

This course was given in the English style with coffee or tea after lecture, but this luxury could be afforded in terms of time only because of hard workers who were good students. Chromosomology was the feature which was usually preceded by a cartoon, "Mickey Mouse in Synapsis", "Donald Duck and Crossing Over" or "Popeye, the Hybrid Vigor." Another gold star rating.

2nd Term:

Bacteriology - Dr. George McL. Lawson, Professor of Preventive Medicine and Bacteriology, University of Virginia Medical School, Mr. Robert Kindred, Assistant -

The other students regarded the Bacteriologists with some degree of awe, having been much impressed by the blood

typing program. Dr. Lawson's subjects now are offering solutions to world problems on the basis of their knowledge of the virus, Rickettsia bodies, and bacteria. Gossip has it that a healthy culture of dysentery producing bacteria was poured down the drain; good thing it wasn't leprosy, eh class?

A "pride of the finest" course.

Limnology - Dr. Charles S. Shoup, Professor of Biology, Vanderbilt University -

Boating on the lake, organism fishing in the streams, and flights in the Brown Bomber were the highlights. The class gleaned a lot of information about the flora, fauna, boats, bottles, and boots in the lake. The data will be forthcoming in another scientific paper. One class member has already published in the Sewerage Journal. Another gold label rating.

Cell Morphology - Dr. Harold Kirby, Jr. Professor of Protozoology, University of California, Berkeley -

Even the class never found out what a "cell morph" was, but the members do know the cell structure of the bacteria, algae, protozoa ova, spermata etc. ECHOES salutes this class for having most impressed the visitors with multi-colored solutions, two water stills, and numerous sewerage cultures or collections. The works went on in their laboratory, or so it appeared. The medal of merit.

Plant Morphology - Dr. Robert F. Smart, Professor of Biology, University of Richmond -

Know the weeds, bushes, and trees by their cross or longitudinal eosin, fast green, or azure stained sections was a prominent point. The "smart" students are plant morphologically smarter even though they worked amid a 5 week presentation of Shakespeare's most famous love story enacted by two members of the class.

SEMINAR TOPICS

June 24 Professor John H. Davis, Jr. - University of Florida

"The Significance of the Peat Deposits of Florida"

- June 26 Professor William A. Kepner - University of Virginia
"Life - as displayed by amoebas"
- July 1 Professor William A. Kepner - University of Virginia
"Life - as displayed by hydras"
- July 3 Dr. Gordon B. Wolcott - Madison College
"Chromosomes and Evolution"
- July 8 Dr. Horton H. Hobbs - University of Virginia
"The Evolution of the North American Crayfishes"
- July 10 Professor Elon E. Byrd - University of Georgia
"Filariasis in the South Pacific Islands"
- July 14 Group discussion on "Conservation of Biological Resources"
- July 16 Professor L. R. Cleveland - Harvard University
"Chromosomes, Centromeres, Centrioles and Centrosomes"
- July 22 Dean Ivey F. Lewis - University of Virginia
"The Witchhazel, Gaul and its Causative Insect"
- July 30 Professor George M. Lawson - University of Virginia
Medical School
"Viruses and Virus Diseases"
- Aug. 4 Professor A. B. Massey - Virginia Polytechnic Institute
"The Flora of Virginia"
- Aug. 6 Mr. Austin T. Hyde - Graduate Student, University of Virginia
"The effect of normal male urine on Trichomonas vaginalis Donne"

- Aug. 6 : Mr. Joseph C. Moore - Graduate Student, University of Florida
"Notes on the Natural History of the Florida Flying Squirrel"
- Aug. 8 Professor Harold Kirby, Jr. - University of California
"Termites and their Protozoa"
- Aug. 11 Professor Charles S. Shoup - Vanderbilt University
"A Venture in Bio-geo-chemistry"
- Aug. 15 Professor Robert F. Smart - University of Richmond
"The influence of external factors on the development and behavior of Slime Molds"
- Aug. 13 Professor L. R. Cleveland - Harvard University
"Chromosomes, Centromeres, Centrioles and Centrosomes"
- Aug. 18 Professor L. R. Cleveland - Harvard University
"The whole life cycle of Chromosomes"
- Aug. 20 Professor L. R. Cleveland - Harvard University
"The whole life cycle of Chromosomes" (continued)

SOME IMPRESSIONS AT MOUNTAIN LAKE BIOLOGICAL STATION

by Greta Van Schaik
Praetoria, South Africa

- 1st day - How beautiful, peaceful and quiet, a good spot for a Sanatarium.
- 2nd day - Ordinary registration day of any University - the usual atmosphere of the beginning of a semester's work.

3rd day - Everyone definitely unbalanced. Working from morning till night--no time, even during field trips, to admire the surrounding beauty of nature.

After 1 week Event at table, nothing except: A seta on third maxilliped being at a dangerous angle of 31° -- or is it 33° ? The pros and cons of leaving some slide of ool or o.ooll seconds in a stain. Even Sunday hikes only a thorough field trip!

After 2 weeks Fortunately some dissatisfaction at meals. Croquet playing evident. Maybe there is some equilibrium yet.

After 3 weeks People have found time -- although the minimum - to learn one another's names. Maybe everything quite normal, after all. Also it surely is interesting to know whether the Mysidacea is on a different twig of a tree than the Cumacea--and think of their Maxillae I ... Likewise there are mushrooms and mushrooms, not to speak of trees and trees!!!

What a pity there isn't more time than 24 hours a day, or that one could divide by binary fission (the nucleus mitotically, of course), to simplify matters concerning quantity of study in limited time. Or, if it were multiple fission, some of myself (us) could go exploring the lake and Twin Springwaters, and we must remember the biggest rocks for the largest crayfish--others to Bald Knob or Beanfield for millipedes with a pale (not ordinary yellow) dot on the (second toe, while at the same time croquet, swimming and square dancing would not be altogether neglected.

And we simply have to see a Leptostracan's eye-stack--end of first session--oh horrors, those exams--

No time for anything--and then people get lost, accidents happen, haircuts have to go, etc., etc.

But it is not everywhere that one experiences a fire and visits caves on the same day as the exams.

Once over, a feeling of relief and regret.

Second session - The same. But definitely everyone is very sane. The spot and people so fine, that it seems too long to wait till next summer comes.

THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

An outstanding innovation at the Station this summer was the formation of the Planning Committee made up of representatives elected from the women students, the men students and the junior investigators. Dr. Reynolds and the staff worked hand-in-hand with this group in mapping out the activities and settling the problems of the Station. This committee discussed small gripes before they became large, considered suggestions referred to it, and deliberated on policies. Some of the accomplishments are described elsewhere in this paper.

Crews Borden, Secretary.

DEAN AND MRS. LEWIS

ECHOES reports with pleasure that Dr. Lewis (alias the Squire, Skipper, etc.), in spite of pressing duties and administrative obligations, was able to spend much of the summer in John Clayton Cottage at the Station. His contribution to life at the Station is stimulating and we always are glad to have him and Mrs. Lewis with us.

MANUAL MANIPULATORS

Volley Ball Court - We look forward to playing volley ball on our new court next summer. A number of the energetic members worked hard and long to get the court in shape. It is whispered that a tennis court will be constructed during the winter.

Bush Cutting - Among other things included in the big Station project of improving the grounds was that of cutting out the underbrush. Nearly everyone joined the "fun" and the old mountain really got its face lifted. During the process several lovely plants were discovered and the unusual rock formation behind Michaux was uncovered.

Swimming Pool - The axe-men also removed a number of trees from the west side of the pool to provide more sun exposure. This and the installation of a pipe so the water would run off from the bottom, rather than the top, caused the water temperature and the pleasure of swimmers to rise several degrees. Bobby, David and Charles were particularly appreciative since they seldom left the pool.

Trails - Next year hikers will find their expeditions much easier because the trail blazers opened old trails and cut new ones. Many thanks and a lead gumdrop to Elaine Cleveland and Janet Kirby who made attractive signs that will mark the trails next year.

Trees - Botany and zoology met in happy cooperation in the planting of hemlocks around the laboratory. (The trees were plants and the planters were animals). Also additional rhododendrons and other shrubs were planted around all of the cottages.

SOCIAL NOTES

City - One of the highlights of the first term, from the standpoint of the faculty, was the reception given by Dr. and Mrs. W. L. Threlkeld of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, in their home in Blacksburg. Not only was the reception a lovely affair in every respect, but our faculty and their respective "drones" had an opportunity to meet and talk with the members of the W. P. I. staff and their wives.

Dr. William A. Kepner, H. H. H., Jr.

Birthday Party - At the delightful party given by Dr. and Mrs. Reynolds the entire complement of the Station paused to offer its congratulations and best wishes to a most distinguished scientist and a very real person, Dr. William A. Kepner. Delicious punch was served from the autoclave while slices of the birthday cake, cookies, peanuts and mints were refreshingly available. The guest of honor was quoted as saying: "And thus has another year been added to my youth; shall we do this more often?"

Square Dancing - During 1947 the Mountain Lakers had added to their social activities the delightful attraction of square dancing in the auditorium. Many thanks to Austin

Hyde who got the group together, demonstrated several figures (including his own), and employed some local "fiddlers" to provide the music for opening night. Although the charge for this "exotic" music was not exorbitant there were certain disadvantages in the arrangement. A record changer and amplifier were purchased and Arthur Burke did a masterful job of fitting them into the old victrola. From then on our music came from records, such as "Mountain Dew" and the like.

Among the figures attempted were:

Four hands round and circle left ...
and circle back.

Ladies to the Center with a four hand swing.

Couple in the back and a four hand swing
Couple in the front and the same old thing

Sugar Hollow Shake-up with four hands across;
Ladies bow and the gents learn how.

The most popular figure was "Crack the Oyster". Although the "Arthropod" students have never let their professor believe that it was other than through his expert instruction, it was only after the first "Crack" that they were able to prove the existence of all the mouth parts. The Plant Cytologists after "plugging the hole in the old tin can" have been more sympathetic towards chromosomes in meiosis. The Plant Geographers liked the confusion of the figure because it fitted their mood so well.

Square dancing's eternal popularity, it was found out this summer, is due to that fact that no matter what partner you get stuck with, you always have the brief respite of "swinging the opposite".

A. A. Leath, Jr.

MISCELLANEOUS

Fire - Practically the entire crowd gathered in front of Audubon Cottage on the last day of the first term. No, it was not to bid adieu to parting friends, but to man the hose and other fire fighting apparatus. It is said that the occupants were over anxious to get rid of certain accumulated odors before returning to their respective homes, and in their zeal for hot water kept the fire above "normal" for

too long. The damage was repaired for less than the insurance company allowed. Then too, we were taught to be more careful.

Buck, the "Dear" - A contribution of color to an already beautiful picture was made by our mutual friend, Buck. Post season news from the mountain tells of an attempted kidnapping of the deer which was abruptly halted when a ranger arrested the villains and released the victim from their car. Stealing deer and deers is an unprofitable business. ECHOES salutes the ranger!

Picnics and Hikes - We like to recall the organized hikes to the beauty spots of our mountain that added to our relaxation on the weekends; however, fun at Mt. Lake was not limited to these organized hikes. Remember the berry-picking expeditions, camp-fire picnics, etc? Speaking of camp-fires, Dr. Singer and his harmonica added to the glow of the Sunday night sings around a fire.

Caves - ECHOES calls to the attention of every Stationologist the fact that we may now begin making up tales (preferably historical or hysterical) about the Bear Cliff Caves discovered and extensively explored this past summer. The geology of the caves indicates that they are huge cracks within the shoulder of rocks forming Bear Cliff and theorists have it that every era or so a large slice of the cliff crashes down the mountain side. Shall we gather at the cliff next summer to watch? (Please bring your own lunch).

White Top Trip - The trip this year was confined to one day - but a full day, leaving at 6:00 A.M. and returning at 10:00 P.M. Most of the group also climbed Mt. Rogers; however, the Arthropodists left before this task began, preferring to collect crayfish along the "homeward" path.

P.S. The weather was slightly unsettled.

The boat house is that formidable edifice located on the Lake about one and one-tenth miles from the Station. (Only those persons who have walked that distance after eleven o'clock at night know how to appreciate fully those one and one-tenth miles.) This past season the old place sported a fresh coat of white paint--one at the beginning of the summer, that is. But that was probably the only new thing she could boast, as her brands of candy, drinks, smokes, and juke-box tunes ("Blue Skies", "My Number One Dream Came True", and an assortment of hill billy hoe-downs) all remained unchanged throughout the summer. Of course, the fact that the station-rented boats were

moored to her rear tended to increase her popularity as an imporium, much to the pleasure of her concierge, Mr. Lucas.

C. E. Parish

Croquet - enthusiasts were delighted when Dr. Reynolds converted his birthday present into a new set.

Photographic Contest - Photography was quite an outdoor and indoor sport. Fourteen cameras vividly recorded the groups on the "picture taking" days. The logical result of this enthusiasm was a snap-shot contest at the end of the session. First prize - Dr. Kirby: second prize - Howard Reuben; third prize - Dr. Smart.

The Brown Bomber Bounces - While returning from Blacksburg on August 9th the old B-12 did a semblance of the Highland Fling and flung the driver, Miss Alvis, and a quantity of groceries out onto the highway. Miss Alvis received only minor injuries but the only passenger, Dr. Jacob Williamson, sustained injuries to his right hand which necessitated amputation of the thumb and skin grafts on the back of the hand. The various operations have been completed and he is now recuperating at his home in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

Seaking now for all present, we extend sincere thanks to the men at V.P.I. who gave so generously of their time and equipment in helping to make the session a successful one. We think this cooperation is exemplary and we await an opportunity to repay in kind.

AMONG THE VISITORS

Yours truly, the Sneaking Snooper, picked up this gem from a non-biologically minded visitor: "I've never seen such an accumulation of characters at one place in my life!" Wonderful, wasn't it? Think how we impressed the laity!

Others who visited the Station without making such an appraisal are: Drs. Strickland, Hagquist and Sullivan of Richmond University; Burch, Mr. and Mrs. (Frances McCalla) Ingles of Radford College; Bell, Price Massey, Lucas, Threlkeld, Wilson and Wingard of V.P.I.; Kindred, Hoffman and Congdon of the University of Virginia; Britton, McFadden, Simms and Young of Blandy Experimental Farm; Sarah Noe of Statesville, North Carolina.

Editor: Charles W. Crowder
Assistant Editor: Marjorie Carter.

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