

Paul Buck Given a Second OAS Award

Paul Buck was recognized in 1991 by the Oklahoma Academy of Science for service as the Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Oklahoma Academy for the period 1988-90. To refresh your memories of Paul's accomplishments in the Academy the following write-up is (see the end for the new information).

He was the driving force for the establishment of the Academy's Endowment Fund. The Executive Secretary-Treasurer is the one (sometimes-) paid staff member of this organization and, as such, is responsible for the interactions with each member and the Academy's various publics - he is the point man, highly visible and exposed. This position requires unselfish service to be successful. For example, in Paul's case, when the Academy's bank account was low, he either delayed or refrained from writing the check for his services (he isn't the only one to do so). Paul was the good glue that held us together and was a catalyst for improving operations. His services in this difficult job were much appreciated, but not really evident to the membership since he worked in the background to make everything go smoothly. His prior service to the Academy includes vice-chairman, 1966 and chairman, 1967 of Section A; elected Secretary-Treasurer, 1969; president-elect, 1970; and president, 1971.



Paul Buck at Award Presentation

Paul was born 9 September 1927 in Highland Park, Michigan as Paul, Jr., the son of Paul and Ruth Virginia Buck. He was a multiengine flight engineer and turret gunner in the Navy (1945-48) and, when recalled for the Korean war, participated in aircraft flight tests for the Navy (1950-52). He was a fireman in Tulsa between tours in the Navy. Upon return from the Navy, he served 6 years as a police officer in Tulsa. The University of Tulsa awarded him a B.S. and a M.S. in botany (zoology minors) in 1958 and 1959, respectively. His Ph.D. in botany is from the University of Oklahoma and his specialties are terrestrial plant ecology and vascular plant systematics. Research on such sneezy subjects as "Hay Fever Plants in Oklahoma" and "Weather Patterns and Ragweed Production in Tulsa" has resulted in 11 publications in peer-reviewed journals. His book "Distribution and Identification of Woody Plants of Oklahoma in the Winter Condition" was originally published by the OAS in 1983 and followed by a second edition January 1992. It is important to recognize plants without leaves - could we say that Paul studied nudes?

Paul joined the faculty of the University of Tulsa in 1969 and retired in 1986. He still teaches botany at the University of Tulsa as an Adjunct Instructor. Teaching after retirement included Tulsa Junior College (1987-92), the University Center in Tulsa (1991), and the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory (1986-93), but not all at the same time -his teaching location depends on the time of the year.

Undergraduate courses that he has taught include: general biology, natural history, environmental biology, genetics and man, plant kingdom, plant anatomy, morphology of the vascular plants, plant physiology, plant taxonomy, agrostology, microtechnique, and bioecology. The graduate courses taught include: organismic biology, environmental biology, plant taxonomy, advanced placement biology for high school science teachers, Rocky Mountain flora, and Rocky Mountain natural history.

He and Lou Ann Clark married 16 July 1950 and have two children: Paul III (director of the Montana Eye Bank) and Dana Lou (Baker) (a business executive in Chicago). There are two grandchildren. His professional organizations include: American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Association of University Professors, Ecological Society of America, Great Plains Historical Society, International Association for Aerobiology, Oklahoma Academy of Science, Oklahoma Native Plant Society, Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory, Society of Sigma Xi, and Southwestern Association of Naturalists.

Paul has consulted for the botany section of the environmental impact study for the Black Fox Nuclear Power Plant, with various companies concerning coal mining permits, and for Independent Ecological Consultants (Verdigris River).

His teaching prowess at the University level was recognized with the 1994 Teaching Service Award from the Oklahoma Academy of Science. The award was presented at the 1994 annual technical meeting in Norman.