

IN MEMORIAM:
EDWIN (ED) BURNELL SMITH (1 DECEMBER 1936–28 JANUARY 2017)

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Edwin (Ed) Burnell Smith passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 28, 2017, in Rogers, Arkansas. He was born in Wellington, Kansas, on December 1, 1936. After serving in the Army for 3 years, Ed enrolled at the University of Kansas in January of 1958, where he completed an M.A. in Botany in 1963, studying the genetics and morphology of *Croptilon divaricatum*. He expanded that work into his doctoral research on the genetics and phylogeny of section *Isopappus* of *Haplopappus* and he received a Ph. D. in botany in 1965. Following a year as an assistant professor at Rutgers University in New Jersey, he accepted a position at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

Ed was generally considered an authority on the genera *Coreopsis* and *Coreocarpus* and published widely on the species of those genera found throughout North America and Mexico. He also produced two important books on the plants of Arkansas: *An Atlas and Annotated List of the Vascular Plants of Arkansas* (1st edition 1978, 2nd edition 1988) and *Keys to the Flora of Arkansas* (1994). The 1978 version of the Atlas, illustrated by Newton County naturalist and artist Kent Bonar, will be reissued by the University of Arkansas Press in October of 2017. The *Keys to the Flora of Arkansas* still serves as an important reference for students, faculty, and other individuals with an interest in the study of Arkansas plants. In addition to his teaching and research responsibilities, Ed also served as the curator of the University of Arkansas Herbarium. Under his leadership the Herbarium grew by nearly 50,000 specimens. Many he collected himself; others, which he often identified as well as annotated and filed, were provided by members of the Arkansas Native Plant Society and other individuals interested in the flora of Arkansas. In 1994, Edwin was awarded the Dwight Munson Moore Award by the Arkansas Native Plant Society for his contributions to Arkansas botany. Edwin attained the rank of full

professor in 1974, and retired from the University of Arkansas in 1998 after 32 years of service. He was awarded Professor and Curator Emeritus status upon his retirement. In retirement, he continued to enjoy collecting and identifying plants as well as reading and wood carving.

Ed married the former Ellen Louise Holmes of Boston, Massachusetts, on June 22 1958, and they had three children: Stephen Jay Smith, Sharon Alice (Smith) Mitchell, and Frank Sanford Smith, IV. Ellen passed away in April of 2016.

—*Kimberly G. Smith and Johnnie L. Gentry, Jr.*

Ed Smith and I were not much different in age, and we both grew up in rural Kansas farm country. He entered the University of Kansas in 1958, and I went there as a freshman in 1959. My intent had been to complete an undergraduate degree in geology. Dr. Robert W. Baxter in the Botany Department taught a paleobotany course that was a geology course elective. Ed and I were students in that course at the same time. We were both introverts and neither of us had much interaction. Although I often sat beside him in the course laboratory, we really made little or no effort to get acquainted.

I lost contact with Ed when I later left the University of Kansas before completing my degree and transferred to Emporia State Teachers College (now Emporia State University). The paleobotany course had piqued my interest in living plants, and that was the basis of the botanical coursework that I pursued. On coming to Arkansas in 1966 with only a Masters degree for my first employment in the Biology Department at Arkansas Polytechnic College (now Arkansas Tech University), I learned that Ed was the new botany taxonomist at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. In my early years at Arkansas Tech, I made contact with Ed and told him of my interest in pursuing a doctoral program at U of A rather than returning to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. At Chapel Hill, I had been admitted to the doctoral program under Dr. Albert Radford and came to Arkansas to pursue dissertation fieldwork. By that time, however, my wife and I had small children and pursuing a degree at Fayetteville seemed to be easier than moving back to Chapel Hill. Ed readily agreed to accept me as his graduate student, and that resulted in my work under his direction.

During my time at the University, from the vantage point of my desk near his in the herbarium, it was obvious that he had two especially noteworthy traits. First, he had all of the marks of a true scholar and second he had a work ethic that was hard to match. Moreover, Ed was extremely talented as a writer, and his uncanny attention to accuracy of detail through his suggestions toward improvement of my draft dissertation helped me develop better writing skills.

Ed came to the office at the same time every morning and left for home at the same time each evening. Punctual and dependable he was, and absolutely no time was wasted during his work day. Day in and day out, coffee and cigarettes kept him going from early morning to late afternoon in an environment where the room reeked with the odor of paradichlorobenzene from the herbarium cabinets.

Ed once confided to me that as a graduate student he really had little interest in becoming a botanist. His real aspiration was admittance to medical school for training as a doctor. That plan did not work out, however, and he chose an alternative—pursuing a doctorate in botany—that enabled him to find employment to support his family in a much shorter time than medical school would have allowed. I have no idea as to how satisfied he might have been as a physician. It is abundantly clear, however, that through his choice of pursuing plant taxonomy, he made major contributions to the botanical knowledge of Arkansas plant species. Those contributions will be his lasting legacy.

—*Gary Tucker, PhD, PWS, FTN Associates, Ltd., Senior Ecologist,
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Dr. Edwin B. Smith welcomed me as my PhD advisor in early January 1981, just two weeks after I was awarded my Master's degree in botany. By then Dr. Smith had become a well-known authority on the genus *Coreopsis*, and with an NSF grant awarded to him to study the South American taxa in this group, which included fellowship funds for 3 years to support a graduate student, I came to the University of Arkansas to work with him. He was challenging to emulate, because he was so tirelessly devoted to teaching and research. Whenever he was

not in the classroom, he was in the laboratory working with herbarium specimens, or in the greenhouse cross-pollinating plants, or at the microscope making chromosome squashes, or writing up results of research for publication. During the 6 years I spent at the University, I had the privilege of prepping and teaching his laboratory sections in Plant Taxonomy, which provided invaluable experience for my future academic path. Due to unforeseen circumstances, my dissertation ended up being a monograph on the genus *Sisyrinchium* in the SE US, a group he knew little about. However, his advice on how to proceed was gladly accepted. Even though I did not become a well-known and respected plant taxonomist like him, I have always been grateful for the opportunities that came my way because of having known and worked with him. Forever, Dr. Smith's "favorite Quaker."

—Kathy Hornberger, PhD 1987, UA, Associate Professor of Science,
Director, Environmental Community Outreach, Widener University, Chester Pennsylvania, 19013, U.S.A.

Dr. Smith was as my major professor for my Master's degree work at the University of Arkansas from 1973–1975. I also received a Graduate Teaching Assistantship for which I greatly appreciated and received invaluable training and experience. Not long after I graduated, the University of Arkansas Botany and Bacteriology Department changed names, and botany degrees were no longer offered. I'm happy that my Master's degree is in Botany. Unfortunately, I did not have much contact with Dr. Smith after graduation in 1975. After receiving my Master's degree, I took the job of Herbarium Botanist in Dallas, Texas, at the Southern Methodist University Herbarium (SMU) working with long-time friend and colleague Dr. Wm. F. Mahler (1930–2013). In the early 1980s, I got to visit with Dr. Smith when he visited the SMU Herbarium to get distribution records of Arkansas plants for his *Atlas and annotated list of the vascular plants of Arkansas* (1988, 2nd ed.). In 1987, Dr. Mahler, Andrea McFadden, and I were instrumental in the establishment of BRIT, a free-standing research institution, the Botanical Research Institute of Texas. The foundation of BRIT was the SMU Herbarium and botanical library. BRIT was relocated to Fort Worth in June 1991. In 1993, I became assistant director and was also in charge of the library and publications program. Not long after Dr. Smith retired (1998) he visited BRIT in Fort Worth. It was a treat to give Dr. Smith and his wife a tour and history of BRIT. Dr. Smith seemed so pleased and delighted to see me working in botany at the BRIT-SMU Herbarium. He congratulated me on my research, curatorial responsibilities and accomplishments, and all of the editorial achievements with *Sida, Contributions to Botany* and *Sida, Botanical Miscellany* books. I had been editor of *Sida* since 1978, and the *Botanical Miscellany* series started in 1987. My herbarium botanist job also involved some field work in Texas, and as a result I had published several small papers on Texas plants. However, the one project that Dr. Smith was captivated with was the *Shinners & Mahler's Illustrated Flora of North Central Texas*, a 1640-page flora published in 1999 after six years of research and writing with my co-authors Dr. George Diggs, Austin College, Sherman, Texas, and Mr. Bob O'Kennon (BRIT). I think Dr. Smith was taken back a bit with the success of BRIT as well as the various botany and research I was involved with. In graduate school, Dr. Smith was never overflowing with praise or with encouragement nor did he really believe I would do anything significant in my career. However, Dr. Smith seemed pleased to hear about all of the accomplishments and genuinely happy for me. As editor, I worked with Dr. Smith to publish some of his own research papers in *Sida, Contributions to Botany*, and therefore I got to interact with Dr. Smith on a professional editor/author basis. Soon after starting my job at SMU, I was helping Dr. Mahler with *Sida*. So, in 1976 I got to work with Dr. Smith when he submitted and published his *Coreopsis* monograph in *Sida (A biosystematics survey of Coreopsis in eastern United States and Canada, Sida 6:123–215)*.

I'm happy that Dr. Smith took me on as a graduate student and helped me with my Master's degree. Thanks, Dr. Smith (always Dr. Smith to me), for giving me the opportunity to work in the UARK Herbarium and for your guidance and support.

—Barney Lipscomb, Botanical Research Institute of Texas,
1700 University Dr., Fort Worth, Texas 76107-3400, U.S.A.