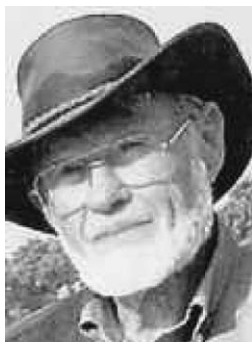


Obituary



Jerry McClure

Jerry W. McClure, Professor Emeritus of Botany at Miami University, passed away on Thursday, April 25, 2006, at Fort Hamilton Hospital. He had been a regular contributor to *Phytochemistry* for several decades, and was much liked by all.

Jerry McClure was born on May 3, 1933, in Floydada, Texas, and took pride in having gone from a depression-era cotton farm and a one-room school to becoming an internationally recognized scientist. He enjoyed traveling the world, laughter, and people; he never met a stranger and he always had a great story to tell. Literature and music were also important to him; he often quoted from Shakespeare to the writings of Heinlein.

Barely 16 years old when he graduated from Crosbyton, Texas, high school, he initially entered Wayland Baptist College, where he was offered a music scholarship in voice. The next year, however, he transferred to Texas Tech University, where he earned a degree in Agronomy in 1954. Following military service in the US Air Force from 1955 to 1959, he returned to Texas Tech, where he received an MS in Agronomy, and subsequently obtained his Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Texas, Austin, 1964; some of his Ph.D. research results were published in *Nature*.

Following his formal training, he joined the Miami University faculty in 1964, and attained full professorship in 1973. In 1972, he also became the first recipient of the Sigma Xi Outstanding Researcher of the Year award, and throughout his career, he received numerous National Science Foundation and US Department of Agriculture grants to fund his research, until retiring in 2001.

Professor McClure received both an Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Senior US Scientist Award from the West Germany government and a Fulbright Foundation Honorary Research Fellowship award to work as a visiting professor at Ruhr-Universität, Bochum, Germany with Meinhard H. Zenk and Georg G. Gross. During this time, he also gave more than 30 invited lectures in the UK, Belgium, Netherlands, Poland, USSR and East Germany.

In 1982, he was named a Distinguished Visiting Scientist at Texas Tech University, and the following year received the Heinrich-Hertz research award in Düsseldorf, West Germany, and the Gordon Research Conferences organizing award. Later, in 1987, he was an invited visiting scholar at the University of Nairobi, Kenya, and at the same time, worked with the Richard Leakey group and National Museums of Kenya. Before returning to Miami University in the fall of 1987, he presented invited lectures in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; Asmara, Eritrea; Nanning and Guilin, People's Republic of China.

Professor Jerry McClure also tirelessly served our profession: he was Treasurer of the Phytochemical Society of North America from 1970 to 1972 and later President in 1976, serving on many committee's and advisory positions. He was also the Chair of the Physiological Section of the Botanical Society of North America, and his other responsibilities included being a member of the Council for International Exchange of Scholars, Life Sciences; on the screening committee for Fulbright Awards; on the screening committee of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowships Foundation, Ohio and Michigan region, and more.

His grasp of the scientific literature related to secondary natural products in plants was astounding, particularly as it related to plant phenolics. Not only could he cite virtually all publications in the natural products area, he would often provide you with personal anecdotes of the authors of these papers which sometimes involved sampling local beverages. Throughout his long career he would meet regularly with his research students and outline numerous research projects, experiments, or suggest papers that they should read. As the students returned with results he would always be ready with additional ideas and suggestions, and was very understanding when some of the more independent grad students would modify or ignore his previous advice, as long as they got good results. He encouraged industriousness and initiative from his students and is remembered by all that worked for him as a mentor, advocate, and friend.

He and his wife Frances were Danforth Faculty Associates; Presidents of the McGuffey Laboratory School PTO and the Community Service Program for Foreign Students (COSEP) Oxford; and regular helpers for Meals on Wheels. He was president of the Society of Miami Emeriti, 2005–2006, as well as a member of the Oxford Men's Club and the Oxford United Methodist Church. In addition to his wife Frances, his friend and partner

for more than 52 years, he is survived by two daughters, Rachel (David) Pierce, Houston, Texas, and Martha (Mark) Gibbins, Monroe, Ohio; his sister, Margaret (Wayland) Jones, of Texas; three grandsons, aunts and uncles, numerous cousins, colleagues, friends, and five students who received support from or lived with the McClure's as they pursued their education. According to his wishes, his ashes were scattered in the pasture on the family farm, where he grew up and, where he developed his first interests in the natural world.

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