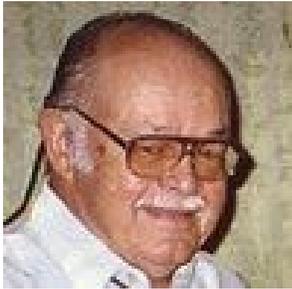


## **Dr. Robert Woodruff, Recipient of the 2013 Urbana High School**

### Distinguished Alumni Award



Dr. Robert Woodruff graduated in 1951 from Urbana High School. He attended Wabash College before graduating with a BS in 1956 in Entomology at The Ohio State University. Woodruff received the PhD in 1967 from the University of Florida with a major in entomology and a minor in botany.

Prior to his employment in 1958 as a survey entomologist with the Florida State Plant Board (now part of the Florida Department of Agriculture), he worked as a curator of the insect collection at Wabash College, an assistant in the Department of Natural History at the Ohio State Museum, a graduate assistant at the Ohio State University, and an entomologist at the Kentucky State Health Department. He coordinated the federal-state Cooperative Economic Insect Survey, with his responsibilities including field surveys, identifications, and reports for pests of turf, field crops, vegetables, fruit, pastures, and ornamental plants. Beginning in 1963, his emphasis changed to detection of foreign pests and primary identification of beetles and grasshoppers. He investigated biological control and pest management of pests from Latin America. His responsibilities included curator of the beetles (coleoptera) and grasshoppers (orthoptera) for the Florida State Collection of Arthropods which is the fifth largest in the US.

Dr. Woodruff is one of the world's leading entomologist and uses his knowledge of insects to help industries based on native insects to save the rain forests of Central America. Additionally, he has used his knowledge to help prevent the invasion of the Caribbean basin by foreign insects, thereby saving those island economies from devastation from insects that would have no native enemies or controls. He retired as Emeritus Taxonomist in August 1988, after thirty years. However, his work as an adjunct and as a consultant has continued.

Dr. Woodruff has held adjunct positions in entomology and Latin American Studies at the University of Florida. He has also been a curator in the Department of Natural Sciences at the Florida

State Museum and is Emeritus Entomologist at the Florida Department of Agriculture. He received the Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas. He has also received grants from the Ohio Academy of Sciences, the United States Public Health Service, the Smithsonian Institution, the US Department of Agriculture, and the United Nations Food & Agriculture Organization among others.

Dr. Woodruff has received twenty-one honors and awards, in addition to having twenty-nine species named for him. He is especially active in consulting throughout the Caribbean and Central America for numerous organizations including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Peace Corps, and FAVACA (Florida International Volunteer Corps).

Dr. Woodruff has published over 150 papers during his long, distinguished career. These papers were primarily in taxonomic and economic entomology. He is listed in seven directories including *Who's Who in the South and Southeast*, *International Scholars Directory*, *Personalities in the South*, and *American Men of Science*. He is active in the Association of Tropical Biology, the Coleopterists Society, the Entomological Society of America (Emeritus), the Florida Entomological Society (Emeritus), Sociedad Mexicana de Entomologia, the Center for Systematic Entomology, and the Gainesville Gem and Mineral Society. He has been very active in editing and serving on editorial boards for eight journals including the *Coleopterist's Newsletter*, the *Coleopterist's Bulletin*, *Insect World Digest*, and *Insecta Mundi*. He received funding from the United States Public Health Service, the National Science Foundation, the Smithsonian Institution, the United States Department of Agriculture, the United Nations, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and various other national, state, and university organizations. Additionally, he is a member of Sigma Delta, Phi Kappa Psi, and Sigma Xi, honorary societies.

From his insect collections, which attracted national attention while he was still a student at Urbana High School to his career as a renown entomologist, Dr. Robert Woodruff is an outstanding example of scholarship, dedication, and leadership.