

OBITUARY

Philip Arthur Jones
(1 March 1924 – 8 January 2015)

Phil Jones, entomologist, naturalist, and long-time member of the Entomological Society of BC, was born in Prince George, BC on 1 March 1924. He died in Vernon, BC on 8 January 2015, two months short of his 91st birthday.

Although he spent his early years in Prince George, Phil moved to Smithers in 1937 and, after completing high school, and fascinated by the natural world, he enrolled in Agriculture in the winter session of 1942-43 at the University of British Columbia. World War II intervened, however, and, from 1944 to 1945, Phil served in the Royal Canadian Navy Volunteer Reserve-Signals Branch. Returning to UBC in 1946, he graduated in 1949 with a BSA, majoring in horticulture. During his undergraduate years, Phil spent the summers of 1947 and 1948 as a student assistant in forest entomology with the Canada Department of Agriculture in Vernon, BC and spent time at the Trinity Valley Field Station, a place guaranteed to turn any young naturalist into an entomologist. After graduation from UBC, Phil was promoted to Assistant Forest Biologist and continued to work in the Vernon office until September 1952.

Phil then left BC for the University of Wisconsin in Madison, where he earned his MSc in Entomology in 1956. His doctoral studies in forest entomology at Wisconsin were interrupted from July 1958 to July 1960, when he was hired as a Research Officer with the Canada Department of Agriculture, Forest Entomology, in Ottawa. He returned to the University of Wisconsin in 1960 to study biological control of forest insect pests and, in 1963 he received his PhD in Entomology with a minor in Plant Ecology.

In 1964 Phil accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Entomology-Zoology Department at South Dakota State University in Brookings. He combined his duties as State Survey Entomologist with field research projects on the control of agricultural insect pests in small grain, row and forage crops throughout South Dakota. He edited, and contributed to, the

weekly South Dakota Insect Survey Newsletter, which was distributed to extension workers, growers and producers in South Dakota and adjoining states. He also provided South Dakota information to US Department of Agriculture surveys of insects of economic importance in the north-central states.

Phil moved to Burlington, Ontario in 1974 as Technical Director for Niagara Chemicals and, in 1977, he joined the Environmental Protection Service (Commercial Chemicals Branch), Environment Canada, in Ottawa as a Senior Scientist. His first assignment was a major technical review of chlorophenols in the environment. Other environmental reviews followed, including those for the commercial chemicals derived from organotins and chlorobenzenes.

Phil transferred to the Vancouver office of the Environmental Protection Service in June 1992 as a Senior Pest Management Specialist. He retired to Vernon in November 1993, returning to the Okanagan Valley that he fell in love with 45 years earlier as a young university student.

Throughout his long career Phil was an author of many academic papers and publications in forest and agricultural entomology. But he was interested in many things, from history (a recent project was the documentation of the history of the Bulkley Valley, where he spent part of his youth) to photography, from skiing to nature education. What I saw mostly, though, in my friendship with Phil, was a love of natural history and a deep interest in people. He frequently phoned me at the Royal BC Museum for information, or sent me specimens and insect photos for confirmation of identification. Often these requests were passed along from friends or other Vernon naturalists; Phil was a great facilitator. During his first years as a professional entomologist, Phil was one of the people connected to the Forest Insect Laboratory in Vernon who, in 1951, formed the North Okanagan Naturalists' Club. He served as its first secretary-treasurer in 1951- 1952. This organization became a popular and powerful force in BC nature study and conservation and, in May 2014, for his significant contributions, Phil was elected a life member.

**Written by
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