

Warren T. Johnson

April 22, 1925 — November 9, 1994

Warren T. Johnson, Professor of Entomology Emeritus, died after an extended illness. Born in Charleston, West Virginia, he received his B.S. degree from Morris Harvey College in Charleston. Following service in the Army, he received his Master's degree from Ohio State University and his Ph.D. degree in entomology from the University of Maryland where he remained a member of the faculty for ten years. He joined the Cornell faculty in 1962 with a joint appointment in the Departments of Entomology and Plant Pathology, was appointed Professor in the Department of Entomology in 1972, and Professor Emeritus in 1991.

Dr. Johnson was the author or co-author of more than 75 publications on arthropods affecting woody ornamental plants and their control. His early interests were with insects affecting nut trees; later he worked on strategies for controlling the forest tent caterpillar, scale insects, and many others; and he ended his career with much work on the use of horticultural oils and growing degree days for pest management. He co-authored and revised yearly the Cornell Recommendations for Maintenance of Trees and Shrubs.

Professor Johnson was a member of several professional societies including the Entomological Society of America, Entomological Society of Canada, the International Society of Arboriculture, American Phytopathological Society and the honorary scientific fraternity, Sigma Xi.

One of his greatest rewards came from his association with students and young professionals. In 1965, he established TIEG (Teen International Entomology Group) to introduce youth worldwide to the science of entomology. TIEG encouraged the study of entomology and the exchange of ideas and material related to the science. A newsletter was published which included comprehensive life history studies, scientific notes, do-it-yourself techniques, and a list of materials for exchange and sale. At one time, the organization boasted over 2,000 members. The project was deemed worthy of support by the Entomological Society of America and the Entomological Society of Canada.

Dr. Johnson served as Chairman of the Youth Program for the International Congress of Entomology held in Washington, D.C. (1976); and as advisor to numerous graduate and undergraduate students—many of whom sought his friendship and counsel until his death.

Dr. Johnson's distinguished career in extension won him numerous awards and reflected his thorough grounding in insect pest management, his concern for the problems of the people, and his skill as a teacher. His widely

acclaimed reference book, *Insects That Feed on Trees and Shrubs: An Illustrated Practical Guide* (first published in 1976), is a classic in its field and is used by plant care professionals throughout the world. He was also a co-author, with Dr. Wayne Sinclair, of the book *Diseases of Trees and Shrubs*, which was published in 1987.

His career in extension kept him busy with lectures and demonstrations at county, regional, and statewide meetings of cooperative extension staff and leaders in the horticultural field.

Warren was a stimulating mentor for young people with an interest in entomology and plant pathology, always keenly aware of public and industry concerns and of conceptions and misconceptions in his field. He truly believed in using a problem-solving approach to teaching and in learning by doing. He was a caring, concerned mentor.

Warren's work brought him some travels. From a National Science Foundation grant in 1964, Johnson went to London for the International Congress of Entomology. He participated in the same congress in Moscow, in the former Soviet Union, in 1968. Four years later, he went to the congressional meeting in Canberra, Australia. He also performed entomological research at the Archbold Research Station in Florida and at the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory in Mississippi in the early 1970s. On one of his sabbatical leaves, Johnson was a Visiting Scientist at the Canada Department of Forestry where he studied microbial pesticides. On another at U.C. Berkeley, he began laying the groundwork for his book *Insects that Feed on Trees and Shrubs*. Most recently he visited China for the International Conference of Entomology and for some sightseeing afterward. The community benefited from his active involvement and leadership with the Ithaca Rotary Club, 4-H, and the Boy Scouts of America. In addition he attended St. Paul's United Methodist Church, where he was a choir member for 32 years. He served on many committees of the church and as president and longtime board member of the Wesley Foundation of Cornell United Religious Work. He will best be remembered for his cheerfulness and caring for others.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, the former Alice Rose Bent; two children, daughter Marilyn Barnard and son Warren Edward Johnson; and four -grandsons, Nicholas Johnson and Benjamin, Taylor, and Jay Barnard; and a sister, Jean Biernat.

George Hudler, Carolyn Klass, Richard Hoebeke, Roger Morse