

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION
For
Professor Emeritus John W. Baxter

John W. Baxter, Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences, died on August 23, 2002 in Ashland, Oregon at the age of 84. He was an active member of the Department of Biology (now Biological Sciences) at UWM from 1956 until his retirement in 1983.

John Baxter was born on February 4, 1918 in Grover, Colorado, the son of John H. And Edna Cole Baxter. He served in the Air Force from 1941 to 1945, stationed in England as a member of the 62nd Pursuit Squadron. After his discharge from military service, he enrolled at the University of Wyoming and earned the B.S. degree in Botany in 1948. He continued his education at Purdue University receiving the degree of M.S. in 1950 and his Ph.D., in 1952 in the field of Plant Pathology. In 1950, he married Elizabeth "Jane" Collins. From 1952 to 1956 he was an Assistant Professor at Iowa State University. He joined the faculty at UWM in 1956 at the rank of Assistant Professor in the Department of Botany, was promoted to Associate Professor in 1961 and Professor in 1966. Upon his retirement from UWM in 1983 he was honored by being designated Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences.

During his tenure at this University, Professor Baxter carried out an extensive research program in Mycology with emphasis on the rust fungi. He published approximately 50 articles and monographs in national and international journals on the systematic descriptions and life cycles of these parasitic organisms. Species descriptions of *Puccinia* and *Ravenelia* from Europe, Africa, Asia, South America as well as North America made him an international authority on these genera. Many of his voucher specimens are archived in the UWM Herbarium where they remain a valuable resource for current researchers. He was perhaps best known to the public as a collector and identifier of edible and poisonous mushrooms working in conjunction with the Milwaukee Public Museum, the Poison Control Center and publishing popular articles about mushrooms in local newspapers.

Professor Baxter was a member of The American Mycological Society, The Society of Sigma Xi, The American Institute of Biological Sciences, Wisconsin Academy of Arts, Letters and Science and Wisconsin Mycology Club. He was also listed in "Who's Who in America".

At UWM he taught courses in Mycology and also participated in General Botany, Economic Botany and Edible and Poisonous Plants courses. In his advanced Mycology it was traditional to conclude the course with a "Fungus and Fermentation Feast" at his home. Students and staff were invited to partake in taste testing the semester's collections, as John would show off his culinary skills preparing the Morels, *Boletus*, Puffballs and his favorite "Hen of the Woods". John enjoyed this side of Mycology as much as the science. Even the mushroom identification keys handed out to his classes contained tips on the best way to prepare them to be most flavorful.

Upon retirement he continued his mycological research in Laramie, Wyoming and later at Ashland, Oregon. He also became an active member in the Wyoming Native Plant Society.

Through the years Dr. Baxter maintained his lifelong close links with his former mentors, colleagues and graduate students by summer visits to Milwaukee, Purdue, and even Australia.

A talented amateur musician, Professor Baxter loved all types of music. He was especially adept at writing parodies of popular songs incorporating friends and colleagues into the melodies.

John is survived by his wife, Elizabeth ("Jane") of Ashland, Oregon; daughter Carol E. (Jerry) Harrison, of Mill Valley, California; son John R. (Kelly) Baxter of Ashland; brother, George T. Baxter of Laramie, Wyoming, three grandchildren and two step grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two sisters, Mary Dyson and Jean Johnson, both of Lander, Wyoming.

Colleagues, students and friends will sadly miss John's academic achievements, his poetic and musical parodies, and his irrepressible sense of humor.

Respectfully submitted,
Geoffrey Kennedy
Peter J. Salamun
Thomas P. Schuck