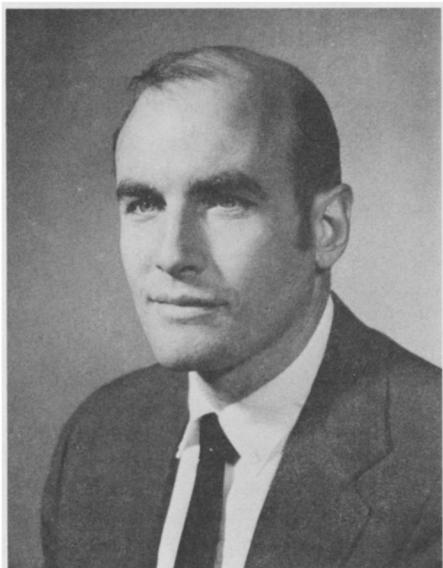


arthur w. cooper, president

1980–1981



Our new president, Art Cooper, a distinguished plant ecologist, is head of the Forestry Department at North Carolina State University (NCSU). He grew up in our nation's capital, received his bachelor's and master's degrees at Colgate University, and studied the relationships between plant life-form and microclimate and between microclimate and soil genesis for his doctoral research under Stanley A. Cain at the University of Michigan. He joined the faculty at NCSU in 1958, becoming the ecologist to maintain the ecological program developed by the late B. W. Wells.

Cooper has taught in the departments of botany and forestry at NCSU and has served as visiting professor at the University of Michigan Biological Station at Pellston during four summers from 1967 to 1971. His ability to stimulate interest and generate enthusiasm among students has been one of his strongest and most influential attributes. He has twice been designated an Outstanding Teacher at NCSU and is highly sought after for advice and counsel.

Cooper's research interests have ranged from microclimates and forest tree-soil in-

teractions to salt marsh productivity and dune stabilization. His publications number about fifty with a major contribution in coastal and estuarine ecology in which, with his graduate students, several studies of net primary productivity in salt marshes and of seedling ecology of coastal dune plants were conducted. Studies of the production of forests in both Michigan and North Carolina have also captivated his interest recently. Throughout his academic career he has maintained an active interest and has made major contributions in the application of ecological concepts and principles to resource management.

Cooper's positions and accomplishments range from the university to professional organizations, to state and federal governments. While at NCSU he served as director of the Coastal Research Program and was instrumental in research to stabilize coastal dune and dredged materials. He has served as a member of the North Carolina Mining Council, the Marine Science Council, the Task Force on Environmental and Natural Resource Education, and the Coastal Resources Commission. He took leave of absence from the university for about five years to serve at the Governor's invitation as Assistant Secretary for Resource Management of the North Carolina Department of Natural and Economic Resources. In this responsible position he played major roles in writing and passage of North Carolina's strip-mining legislation and the Coastal Area Management Act. His first-hand knowledge of the political and legislative processes make him an even more valuable resource to students and faculty. His conservation efforts are a matter of record; he has received several awards, among them a North Carolina Wildlife Federation Award and an American Motors Conservation Award.

As a scientist he has served as secretary of the Botanical Section of AAAS, as chairman of the Conservation and Legislative Committee of the North Carolina Academy of Science and later as president of that organization, as vice president of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Club, as vice president of the Ecological Society, as botanical editor of *Ecological Mono-*

graphs, and on the Board of Editors for Ecology and Ecological Monographs.

On a national level he has served on the Southeastern Regional Advisory Committee for the National Park Service, on the Technical Advisory Committee for the Dredged Materials Research Program Corps of Engineers, and as chairman of the Committee of Scientists, National Forest Management Act.

One of Cooper's strongest assets is his ability to communicate effectively, not only with students and academicians, but with persons of quite different perspectives and aspirations in governmental positions, and with decision-makers and the public. It is

seldom that a professional ecologist is capable, willing, and successful at projecting his beliefs of what is environmentally best for the common good of society in the long term. He is not only a most effective spokesman for professional ecologists, but one of the true humanitarians within our ranks. We are indeed fortunate to have his talents committed to the leadership of the Ecological Society where his qualities will ensure a strong and effective voice in Society matters while striving to project ecological principles in managing our nation's resources.

—Ernest D. Seneca

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