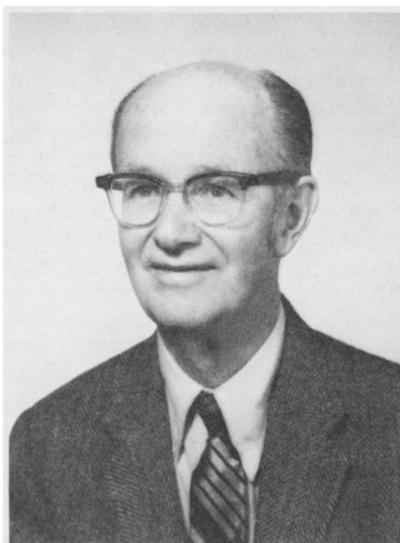


william dwight billings—president 1978–1979

Our new president, Dwight Billings, is one of several distinguished plant ecologists who are alumni of Butler University. Dwight enrolled in the graduate program in botany at Duke University in 1933 and was the first to complete a doctoral degree under the late Henry J. Oosting. He taught at the University of Tennessee and for several years at the University of Nevada, following which he returned to Duke in 1952 and was honoured by being named James B. Duke Professor of Botany in 1967. In addition to his earned degrees, he was awarded the honorary degree, Doctor of Science, by Butler University in 1955.

Throughout his career Dwight has been an inspiring teacher with an unusual ability to develop and maintain an informal and close personal relationship with his students while commanding their respect and demanding their very best efforts and a full commitment to their discipline. He has encouraged his many graduate students to pursue their own research interest after completing their formal education and by visiting with them and collaborating in research projects with them, at the widely separated locations where they live, he has also enhanced his own perspective of the global dimensions of plant ecology.

Billings' research and scholarly interests have moved from phytosociology through physiological ecology and the study of the adaptations of plants to the severe environments of deserts, high altitudes and high latitudes to his present work in the analysis of the ecosystems of these regions. His publications number more than seventy-five; their titles reveal the breadth of subject matter as well as the geographical amplitude of his interest and activities. In addition to research reports, he has published several articles that are directed toward the synthesis and integration of ecological concepts.



Among Billings' many and varied accomplishments are those functions that he has performed within and for the Ecological Society itself, e.g., his service as vice president of the Society and as editor of both *ECOLOGY* and *ECOLOGICAL MONOGRAPHS*. As an ecologist he has served in advisory capacities at both national and international levels. He has also held responsible positions in the Botanical Society of America and the American Institute of Biological Sciences.

Full recognition of Dwight Billings' long and intensive commitment to the development of plant ecology has come with his election as president of the Ecological Society of America. His leadership assures the Society of a strong voice for the continued support of ecological research.

Source: *Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America*, Vol. 59, No. 3 (Sep., 1978), p. 131. Courtesy of JSTOR