

ASA ORRIN WEESE

1885 - 1955

Dr. A. O. Weese, past president of the Ecological Society of America, died in Norman, Oklahoma, on November 20, 1955, at the age of 70.

Dr. Weese was born in Hutchinson, Minnesota, on November 7, 1885. He received his A.B. degree from the University of Minnesota in 1909, and in 1911 joined the faculty of the University of New Mexico. He served at this institution until 1922 as assistant professor of biology, then professor, director of the Department of Hygiene, and acting dean.

Meanwhile he continued his graduate studies during summer sessions at the University of Minnesota, the University of California, and the University of Chicago. He followed V. E. Shelford to the University of Illinois in the summer of 1915 and received his A.M. and Ph.D. degrees from that institution in 1917 and 1922 respectively. He was associated with the faculty of James Milliken University from 1922 to 1924, and in the latter year Dr. Weese went to the University of Oklahoma as professor of zoology. In addition to his teaching duties he served as ecologist with the Oklahoma Biological Survey from 1926 until the time of his death and edited all Survey publications. He was named research associate in the zoology division of the University Museum in 1948, and, in 1946-1947, served as acting dean of the Graduate College.

Dr. Weese devoted many of his summers to teaching, research, and field work at seaside and inland biological stations. He presented field courses in marine ecology at Puget Sound Biological Station, Friday Harbor, Washington in 1924, 1925, and 1929. Most of his summers were subsequently spent at the Rocky Mountain Biological Laboratory at Gothic, Colorado, where he taught ecology and served as president of the board of trustees of the Laboratory from 1938 until the end of his life.

Dr. Weese was a member and an active worker in many professional societies. He was a fellow of the Oklahoma Academy of Science, served as its president from 1931 to 1933, and was permanent secretary of that organization from 1946. He was president of the Grasslands Research Foundation and a member of the National Research Council's Committee on the Ecology of Grasslands. Always interested in conservation, Dr. Weese served as chairman of the Ecological Society's Committee on the Preservation of Natural Conditions, as president of the Ecologists' Union, and was an active member of the Nature Conservancy. He was a member of the American Society of Zoologists, of the British Ecological Society, and of many other scientific and honorary organizations.

As one of the early members and builders of the Ecological Society of America, Dr. Weese was a life member of the Society, was secretary-treasurer for ten years (1920-1930), and was president in 1931.

New Orleans, Louisiana
February 15, 1956

C. C. Hoff
A. J. Sharp
W. G. Moore, Chairman
Committee on Resolutions

Source: Bulletin of the Ecological Society of America, Vol. 37, No. 2 (Jun., 1956), p. 53.
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