

FOREWORD

This is a memorial publication to the late PAUL B. SEARS (1891-1990). Technically, it is a *Gedenkschrift*, a German term for a volume to honor a deceased scholar written by admirers and family. As such, the contributions are both scientific summaries and essays that describe Sears' contributions to science and society. Moreover, the articles portray the personal side of Sears from the perspective of relatives or from those who knew him.

Thus, this publication is both *bibliographical* in terms of Sears' own scientific contributions and *biographical* in terms of his life and relationships with students, colleagues and family. For the bibliographical contributions, we hope that authors have accurately stated Sears' scientific accomplishments, and have not embellished them too much or added too much undocumented interpretation or speculation. We have worked to make sure that extensive literature citations document accomplishments. For the biographical contributions, we hope that the authors have stated their views and observations as clearly as possible and that the articles are well organized.

We acknowledge the initial arrangements of the PAUL B. SEARS (1891-1990) memorial symposium in 1991 by MOHAN K. WALI, The Ohio State University. He also initially solicited and edited manuscripts with assistance from JULIANA C. MULROY, Denison University. Subsequently, RONALD L. STUCKEY, The Ohio State University and EILEEN SCHOFIELD, Editorial Consultant, edited the papers prior to submission to *The Ohio Journal of Science* for consideration by peers. At least two peers reviewed each article. THOMAS DUNCAN, Guest Editor on behalf of RONALD L. STUCKEY, and I incorporated peer reviews and completed editing in cooperation with authors.

This is not a mere snapshot of the long and distinguished career of PAUL B. SEARS. I believe it is a fully developed and indelible image of a 20th century scientist whose work continues to influence the broad discipline of ecology and public understanding of science today. We could write no better epitaph than to use Sears' own words, quoted by his daughter, SALLIE HARRIS SEARS, at the end of her essay. The imagery in the following passage, presumably attributed to CHARLES DARWIN, might well apply to PAUL B. SEARS:

Unfortunately for those who would trace the influence of any creative mind or character, the world of human thought and action is no quiet pond. It is instead a deep and surging sea with countless forces at work below its surface and upon its unresting face. On such turbulent waters even the boiling wake of a huge vessel soon merges into the general activity.

—PAUL B. SEARS (1891-1990)

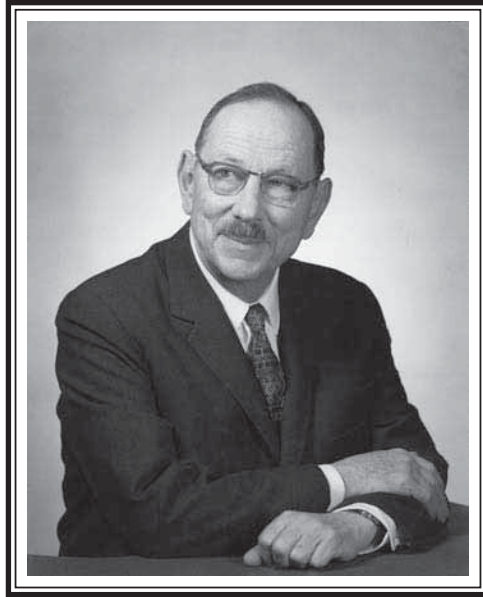
in *Charles Darwin: the Naturalist as a Cultural Force*.

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LYNN E. ELFNER
Acting Editor

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**KNOWING NATURE:
PAUL BIGELOW SEARS AND AMERICAN ECOLOGY**



PAUL B. SEARS (1891-1990)

[Photo from 1967, courtesy of LOREN D. POTTER.]

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Initial solicitation and editing of manuscripts was performed by MOHAN K. WALI and JULIANA C. MULROY, Denison University.

Subsequent editing was conducted by RONALD L. STUCKEY, The Ohio State University and EILEEN SCHOFIELD, Editorial Consultant, prior to manuscript submission to *The Ohio Journal of Science* for peer review.

Incorporation of peer reviews and final editing was completed by Guest Editor, THOMAS DUNCAN, University of California, Berkeley (emeritus) on behalf of RONALD L. STUCKEY and LYNN E. ELFNER, Acting Editor, *The Ohio Journal of Science*.

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