

THE SPECIAL SYMPOSIUM ON CONSERVATION PRESENTED  
AT THE FIFTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
OHIO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE

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Progress toward scientific management of our natural resources although discouragingly slow at times has none-the-less been remarkably rapid during the past two decades. During this period the number of scientifically trained personnel employed to cope with resource problems has increased many fold and numerous important conservation projects have been completed. In our own state, for example, the number of trained workers engaged in soil, water, forest, mineral and wildlife management and research has grown from less than 50 in 1930 to approximately 250 at the present writing. During the same period such important projects as the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District with its 14 flood control dams and 10 recreational lakes, greatly enlarged public forest programs and the organization of Soil Conservation Districts in 78 of the 88 counties in the State have been realized.

Considerable progress has also been attained in conservation education. Courses designed to awaken students to an understanding of resource problems were initiated during this period at a number of the privately supported Ohio colleges and universities and in at least three of the state supported universities. The Ohio Conservation Laboratory for prospective teachers and teachers in service was also initiated during this period. This program, conducted by the College of Education of the Ohio State University in co-operation with the State Department of Education and the Ohio Division of Wildlife has provided training to many elementary and secondary school teachers who have established centers of conservation teaching in both large and small school systems in the State.

Although these and many other accomplishments have been attained it is readily apparent that much yet remains to be done. We have made progress on only some of our problems while on others we are still falling behind. Despite notable advances in soil conservation for example we are for the state as a whole still carrying on a depleting type of agriculture. Probably not over 20 per cent of Ohio farms are managed on a self-sustaining basis in so far as soil resources are concerned. While progress is being made on some fronts new problems continue to develop. The growth of the chemical industry in recent years has for example introduced new problems due to the resulting waste products emptied into our already polluted streams. Wildlife management problems too have become more complex because of the ever growing army of hunters and fishermen who seek an equitable share of the wildlife crop produced on farms and the meager area of publicly owned land in the state.

One of our major problems is to so co-ordinate the efforts of the various agencies established to work on conservation programs that the maximum good may be accomplished with the limited funds at their disposal. The recent Ohio Legislature had this objective in view when it enacted legislation establishing a Department of Natural Resources. ". . . and to bring into that department, as divisions thereof, the various state agencies engaged in conservation of natural resources and to provide for the correlation of the work and activities within the department so as to avoid and eliminate unnecessary duplications of effort and overlapping of functions . . ."

This legislation brought into legal status on August 11, 1949, the first unified conservation department in the state and placed Ohio among the select group of states which now handle their resource problems in this manner.

The conservation symposium conducted at the recent annual meeting of the Ohio Academy of Science was planned by the Conservation Committee to acquaint members of the Academy and the general public with current conservation problems in Ohio and the programs of the agencies charged with responsibility for their study and management. Special emphasis was given to the administrative organization of the newly created Department of Natural Resources and to the program, problems and policies of the divisions of Geological Survey and Water within that department. The papers presented at this symposium are herein published as a means of further disseminating the information presented. It is hoped that similar symposia may be conducted at subsequent meetings of the Academy so that the work of the remaining divisions of the Department and of other conservation agencies in the state may become better known.

## ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

### AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCE

IN COLUMBUS, OHIO, AND THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

SEPTEMBER 11 - 12 - 13, 1950

The following Biological Societies will present programs at the A. I. B. S. Meeting:

*American Bryological Society*  
*American Fern Society*  
*American Society for Horticultural Science*  
*American Society for Plant Physiologists*  
*American Society for Human Genetics*  
*American Society of Lymnology and Oceanography*  
*American Society of Naturalists*  
*American Society of Plant Taxonomists*  
*Botanical Society of America*  
*Ecological Society of America*  
*Genetics Society of America*  
*Mycological Society of America*  
*Phycological Society of America*  
*Society for the Study of Evolution*  
*Society of Industrial Microbiologists*

### THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL OF GENETICS

In Celebration, the Genetics Society of America is preparing a special program for the Columbus Meeting

All members, of Biological Societies not planning programs for the A. I. B. S. meeting, are cordially invited to attend the Columbus Convention.