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# Stephen Lane Wood, 1924–2009: obituary

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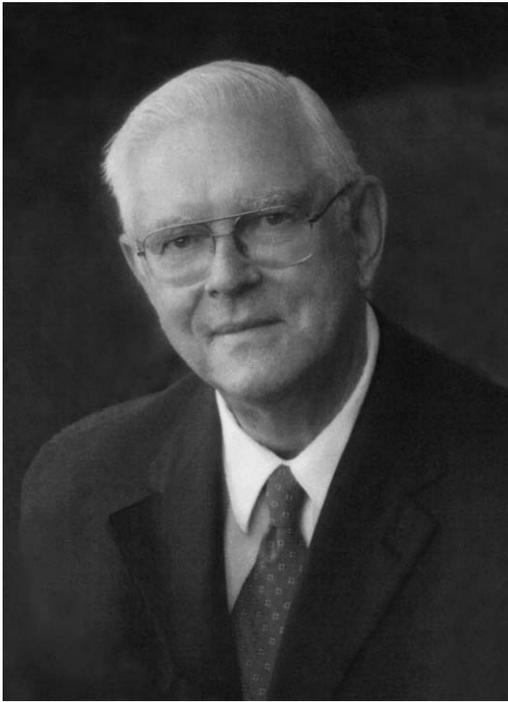
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STEPHEN LANE WOOD, 1924–2009:  
OBITUARY



*Stephen L. Wood*

On 1 July 2009, at the age of 84, Stephen Lane Wood died in Provo, Utah, of causes incident to age. Dr. Wood was very influential in the history and development of the *Western North American Naturalist*. He served as an associate editor from 1956 to 1969 and as editor from 1969 to 1989 under the former title *Great Basin Naturalist*. During the years 1976–1992, he also supervised production of the *Great Basin Naturalist Memoirs*.

S.L. Wood was born on 2 July 1924, one mile south of Logan, Utah, to John Karl and Phebe (Ricks) Wood. He attended elementary (River Heights) and secondary (South Cache) schools, both in Cache County, Utah. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army and upon his return studied at the University of

California, Berkeley, in 1946. He received a B.S. in 1946 and an M.S. in 1948, both from Utah State University, and a Ph.D. in 1953 from the University of Kansas.

Wood worked as a research aide for the Utah Experiment Station (1941–1950); as a science teacher at Beaver County High School, Beaver, Utah (1948–1950); as an assistant instructor of biology at the University of Kansas, Lawrence (1950–1953); as a research entomologist at the Canada Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Ontario (1953–1956); and as a professor of entomology at Brigham Young University (BYU), Provo, Utah (1956–1989). In retirement, he continued as an emeritus curator of insects at BYU (1989–2009).

Dr. Wood was a member of Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Sigma Xi, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Entomological Society of America, and more than a dozen other honorary or professional societies. He was a charter member of the Honors Program organizing committee at BYU and was also instrumental in initiating progress toward plan development for and construction of the Widtsoe and Martin buildings (1965–1971) and the Monte L. Bean Life Science Museum (1973–1978). Additionally, he served as a visiting research professor of forest entomology at the Universidad de Costa Rica, San José (1963–1964), and at the Universidad de los Andes, Mérida, Venezuela (1969–1970). He also instructed classes in tropical ecology for the Organization of Tropical Studies (1966).

Beginning as early as 1964, Wood was recognized as a principal world authority on classification and behavior of bark and ambrosia beetles (Coleoptera: Scolytidae and Platypodidae). He authored more than 110 peer-reviewed scientific articles, including 2 major monographs—a world catalog treating all known species in these groups and world generic classifications of both families. His collections are presently curated at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. For over

50 years, he provided free identification of bark and ambrosia beetles to research workers worldwide. He was an active participant in 6 International Congresses of Entomology and was a featured guest speaker at the LeConte Symposium on the world classification of beetles, Detroit, Michigan (1983), and at the World Conference on the classification of bark and ambrosia beetles at the European Congress of Entomology, Budjovice, Czech Republic (1998).

As a life-long active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Stephen served in that organization as a ward clerk, in a district presidency (Maracaibo, Venezuela),

as the bishop of the BYU 147th Ward, as the president of a Seventies quorum, in 3 Elders quorum presidencies, and in numerous other positions.

Stephen's wife Elizabeth, his parents, a brother (John K. Wood), and 2 sisters (Zella W. Thatcher and Virginia Wood) preceded him in death. His survivors include 2 sisters (Patricia W. Nielson and Maxine W. Campbell), 3 children (Katherine Wood Brown, John G. Wood, and Marian Wood Pickerd), 12 grandchildren, and 14 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held in Provo, Utah, and interment was at the City Cemetery, Logan, Utah.