

Presidents of the Botanical Society of Washington

Compiled by Alan T. Whittemore

- 1902 - Albert Fred Woods (USDA, Assistant Head of Bureau of Plant Industry and Principal Pathologist, Div. of Fruit & Vegetable Crops and Diseases; later Dean of Agriculture, Univ. of Minnesota; President, Univ. of Maryland; Director of Scientific Work, USDA) Plant diseases and insect pests; oxidation processes in cells; enzymes; part of the first group to prove that plant diseases can be transmitted by insects.
- 1903 - Albert Fred Woods (see 1902).
- 1904 - Frederick Vernon Coville (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Head of the Office of Economic & Systematic Botany; curator of the National Herbarium, later founder of the U. S. National Arboretum) Floristics; adaptations of desert plants; management of dry rangeland; American Indian ethnobotany; culture and breeding of blueberries.
- 1905 - David Grandison Fairchild (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Head of the Office of Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction) Plant introduction and germplasm exploration; plant diseases and plant quarantine; microscopic fungi and algae.
- 1906 - Merton Benway Waite (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Head of Fruit Disease Investigations) Plant pathology; pollination biology of fruit crops; part of the first group to prove that plant diseases can be transmitted by insects.
- 1907 - Herbert John Webber (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Physiologist in Charge, Plant Breeding Lab) Plant physiology; reproductive biology of plants (especially cycads); diseases of *Citrus*.
- 1908 - Charles Fay Wheeler (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Expert in Charge of the Economic Gardens; spent much of his career (1889-1902) at Michigan State Univ.) Cyperaceae; Michigan floristics; forestry.
- 1909 - Charles Vancouver Piper (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Head of Forage Crop Investigations) Forage plants; agrostology; pasture improvement; silage production; improved grasses for lawns and golf courses; flora of the Pacific Northwest.
- 1910 - William Alton Taylor (USDA, Head of the Bureau of Plant Industry; formerly of the Pomology Section) Pomology and nuciculture.
- 1911 - William Jasper Spillman (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Agriculturist in Charge of Farm Management Investigations; later Office of Forest Pathology) Plant breeding; soils and farming techniques; independently discovered Mendelian inheritance, the first to apply it to plant breeding.
- 1912 - William Allen Orton (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Pathologist in Charge of Cotton and Truck Disease Investigations; later head of the Office of Drug and Related Plants) Pathologist; parasitic fungi; fungicides; diseases, breeding, and fruit storage, cotton, root and fruit crops.
- 1913 - Warner W. Stockberger (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Physiologist; later Co-Head of Drug-plant, Poisonous-plant, Physiological and Fermentation Investigations) Breeding for disease resistance; physiology of tannin production; drug plants.
- 1914 - Cornelius Lott Shear (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Office of Forest Pathology) Plant pathologist; diseases of small fruits, cotton; chestnut blight; fungal taxonomy.
- 1915 - Rodney Howard True (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Physiologist; later Co-Head of Drug-plant, Poisonous-plant, Physiological and Fermentation Investigations; still later Physiologist in Charge, Physiological and Fermentation Investigations) Biochemistry in solutions; growth; toxicology; fermentation, especially tea and tobacco; culture of spices and tobacco; history of agriculture.
- 1916 - Albert Spear Hitchcock (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Principal Botanist in Charge of Grass Investigations) Grass taxonomy; plant nomenclature.
- 1917 - Thomas Henry Kearney (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Physiologist in Charge of Alkalai and Drought-resistant Plant Investigations) Physiologist, taxonomist and cotton breeder; agriculture in dry and alkaline land; establishment of cotton farming in the southwestern US; taxonomy of Malvaceae; flora of Arizona.
- 1918 - Walter Tennyson Swingle (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Physiologist in Charge of Crop Physiology Breeding Investigations; later Foreign Seed and Plant Introduction Section?) Acquisition and evaluation of germplasm, especially fruit and nuts; sinology.
- 1919 - Karl Frederick Kellerman (USDA, Assistant Chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, Head of Soil Bacteriology and Plant Nutrition Investigations and Head of Citrus Canker Eradication) Physiology and life history of bacteria and fungi; soil organisms, especially legume rhizobionts; plant diseases.
- 1920 - Haven Metcalf (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Head of Forest Pathology Investigations) Plant pathologist; diseases of crops and forest trees, including chestnut blight; cytogenetics.

- 1921 - Charles Edward Chambliss (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Office of Cereal Investigations; later Expert in Charge of Rice Investigations) Entomology; insect pests of crop plants; rice culture, breeding and taxonomy.
- 1922 - William Edwin Safford (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Economic Botanist) Economic botany and philology of Guam; grammar of the Chamorro language (Guam); ethnobotany of Mexico; Mexican Cactaceae.
- 1923 - Lee Cleveland Corbett (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry; Horticulturist in Charge, Horticultural and Pomological Investigations; first Head of the Arlington Experiment Station) Propagation of plants; the effect of incandescent gaslight on plants; transpiration; methods for intensive agriculture; ornamentals and food plants for small farms and gardens.
- 1924 - Homer LeRoy Shantz (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry; Physiologist in Charge, Plant Physiology and Fermentation Investigations) Soils and vegetation change in the western US and Africa.
- 1925 - R[olla] Kent Beattie (USDA, Pathologist in Charge of Foreign Plant Quarantines) Plant pathology; orchid culture; plant explorer; forage plants; flora of the Pacific Northwest.
- 1926 - Daniel Naylor Shoemaker (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Horticulturist) Vegetable culture.
- 1927 - Merton Benway Waite (see 1906).
- 1928 - Robert Fiske Griggs (Professor of Botany, George Washington University) Systematics, synecology, plant exploration; government expeditions to Puerto Rico, Guatemala, Texas, Alaska; led National Geographic Society expeditions to Katmai, Alaska; president of the Ecological Society of America in 1944.
- 1929 - David Griffiths (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Head of Ornamental Plant Crops and Diseases Investigations) Culture of ornamental bulbs; grasses and cacti for forage; fungi, especially Sordariaceae; his last name is given as Griffiths in some sources, Griffith in others.
- 1930 - Harry Baker Humphrey (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Senior Pathologist, Cereal Disease Investigations) Plant pathology; developmental morphology of liverworts; physiology, life history, and control of pathogenic fungi.
- 1931 - Neil Everett Stevens (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Pathologist) Plant pathology; relation of climate to plant disease; culture of strawberries, cranberries, tomatoes.
- 1932 - John Bitting Smith Norton (University of Maryland; adjunct with USDA Bureau of Plant Industry Ornamental Plant Crops and Diseases Investigations) Plant pathologist, breeder, and early Mendelian (elucidated the genetics of double-flowered carnations in 1905); taxonomy of Euphorbiaceae and *Dahlia*.
- 1933 - Charles Brooks (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Pathologist) Transportation and storage of fruits and vegetables.
- 1934 - Nathan Raymond Smith (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Senior Bacteriologist) Soil microbiology; decomposition processes; life cycles of bacteria; aerobic spore-forming bacteria.
- 1935 - William Webster Diehl (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Mycologist) Mycology, especially ascomycetes.
- 1936 - John William Roberts (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Senior Pathologist) Diseases of fruit trees.
- 1937 - George McMillan Darrow (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Office of Fruit Production Investigations [Bell MD]) Berry and pear breeding and culture.
- 1938 - George Flippo Gravatt (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Senior Pathologist, Division of Forest Pathology) Fungal diseases of trees, esp. chestnut blight; plant breeding.
- 1939 - Charles Thom (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Head, Soil Pathology Investigations) Mycologist; microbiology of food; saprophytic fungi; cheese preparation; food poisoning; mould-induced allergies; soil fungi.
- 1940 - Melvin Clarence Merrill (USDA, Chief of the Publications Department) Physiology and water relations in plants; tomato breeding; canning.
- 1941 - James Edward McMurtrey, Jr. (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Assistant in Tobacco Investigations) Physiology and nutrition of plants, especially tobacco.
- 1942 - Charlotte Elliott (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Scientific Assistant in the Plant Pathology Laboratory) Bacterial plant pathogens, especially bacterial pathogens of maize.
- 1943 - L[awson] Edwin Yocum (Associate Professor of Botany, George Washington University) Plant physiology, growth and development.
- 1944 - John Robert Magness (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry; Head Horticulturist in Charge, Division of Fruit & Vegetable Crops and Diseases) Physiology of fruit production and storage.
- 1945 - Aaron Guy Johnson (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Pathologist, Division of Cereal Crops and Diseases) Plant rusts; cereal diseases; long at Univ. of Wisconsin.

- 1946 - Earl Steinfeld Johnston (Smithsonian Institution, Assistant Director; formerly Division of Radiation and Organisms) Plant growth and climate; mineral nutrients; biophysics.
- 1947 - Harry Rascoe Fulton (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Pathologist in Fruit Disease Investigations) Diseases of crop plants, especially *Citrus* and other subtropical fruits; fungal physiology.
- 1948 - Francis Joseph Weiss (Sugar Research Foundation, Special Research Consultant) Agricultural chemistry, especially use of sugar and sugar byproducts.
- 1949 - Ronald Bamford (University of Maryland, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture, 1949-1950; formerly of the Department of Botany; from 1950-1966, Dean of the Graduate School) Cytogenetics; polyploidy; hybridization in *Viola*.
- 1950 - Egbert Hamilton Walker (Smithsonian Institution, Department of Botany) Floras of east Asia and the Washington-Baltimore area; taxonomy of Myrsinaceae.
- 1951 - William Adams Dayton (USDA Forest Service, in charge of the Division of Dendrology and Range Forage Investigations; from 1954, Plant Taxonomist on the Staff of the Chief of Research) Ecology, dendrology, life histories of range plants, floristics of the Washington-Baltimore area; forests of Costa Rica.
- 1952 - Harry Alfred Borthwick (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Principal Plant Physiologist in the Ornamentals Laboratory) Photoperiodism; seed germination; effect of light on plant growth.
- 1953 - Lee Milo Hutchins (USDA Bureau of Plant Industry, Head Pathologist of the Division of Forest Pathology; from 1954, Chief of the Division of Forest Disease Research, Forest Service) Viral and physiological diseases of trees; plant pathology and physiology; soils.
- 1954 - Samuel Leonard Emsweller (USDA Agricultural Research Service, Head Horticulturist of the Ornamental Plants Section, Horticultural Crops Research Branch) Genetics, breeding, and cultural methods for ornamental plants and vegetables; polyploidy.
- 1955 - Robert Whilmer Leukel (USDA Agricultural Research Service, Scientific Assistant in the Division of Cereal Crops and Diseases) Diseases of cereals.
- 1956 - Carroll Eastburn Cox (University of Maryland, Professor) Diseases of vegetable crops; pathogenic *Fusarium* spp.; fungicides.
- 1957 - John Albert Stevenson (USDA Agricultural Research Service, Principal Mycologist and Head of the Plant Disease Epidemics and Identification Section; Curator, National Fungus Collections, USDA & Smithsonian) Fungal diseases of crops; taxonomy of fungi.
- 1958 - Russell Guy Brown (University of Maryland, Associate Professor of Botany) Taxonomy and ecology of the Maryland flora.
- 1959 - Herbert Christian Hanson (Catholic University, Research Professor in the Department of Botany) Plant community ecology; farming methods.
- 1960 - Harold Thurston Cook (USDA, Assistant Director [later Director] of the Agricultural Marketing Service) Diseases of vegetable crops, storage and transportation of perishable foods, breeding for disease resistance.
- 1961 - Wilbur Dwight McClellan (USDA Agricultural Research Service, Assistant Chief of the Crops Protection Research Branch) Fungal diseases of cultivated plants, especially bulbs.
- 1962 - Albert Charles Smith (Smithsonian Institution, Director of the National Museum of Natural History; later Assistant Secretary for Science) Relationships of basal angiosperms, tropical flora.
- 1963 - Russell Bradford Stevens (Professor of Botany, George Washington University; from 1964, Executive Secretary, Division of Biology and Agriculture, National Research Council) Fungal diseases of plants; genetics of plants and fungi; epidemiology.
- 1964 - Peter Herman Heinze (USDA Agricultural Research Service, Chief of the Horticultural Crops Research Branch; formerly Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Horticultural Crops Branch) Postharvest physiology of fruits and vegetables.
- 1965 - Robert Wallfar Krauss (University of Maryland, Head of the Dept. of Botany) Physiology and biochemistry of algae.
- 1966 - William Querin Loegering (USDA Agricultural Research Service Cereal Crops Branch, Crops Research Division; later Professor of Genetics, Univ. of Missouri, Columbia) Fungal diseases of plants; interorganism genetics.
- 1967 - Albert Aloysius Piringer, Jr. (USDA Agricultural Research Service, Assistant Chief of the Fruit and Nuts Branch) Horticulturist; day-length responses in plants; physiology of horticultural plants; culture of fruit and nut trees; co-discoverer of phytochrome.
- 1968 - H[erbert] Rex Thomas (USDA, Director of the Agricultural Research Service) Plant pathology; diseases of beans and tomatoes; agricultural administration.

- 1969 - Ernest P. Imle (Director of Research, American Cocoa Research Institute; formerly USDA pathologist; worked in the wartime rubber programs) Diseases and breeding of tropical crops, especially rubber and cacao; plant introduction and quarantine; research and training needs in tropical agriculture; drug and specialty crops.
- 1970 - Conrad Barnett Link (University of Maryland, Professor of Floriculture) Photoperiodism; plant anatomy, nutrition, and propagation.
- 1971 - Martin Michael Kulik (USDA Agricultural Research Service, Field Crops and Animal Products Research Branch) Seedbourne fungi and diseases of seeds.
- 1972 - William Louis Stern (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, US National Herbarium) Wood anatomy; evolution on islands.
- 1973 - Richard H. Eyde (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, US National Herbarium) Cornaceae; comparative anatomy of angiosperms.
- 1974 - Charles Robert Gunn (USDA Agricultural Research Service, curator of the US National Seed Herbarium) Identification of seeds and fruits, especially Fabaceae; ocean dispersal of seeds; computer-assisted identification of seeds and fruits.
- 1975 - Robert William Read (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, US National Herbarium) Taxonomy of neotropical monocots.
- 1976 - Peter M. Mazzeo (USDA Agricultural Research Service, collections manager of the U. S. National Arboretum herbarium) Cultivated flora of the eastern United States; flora of Shenandoah National Park.
- 1977 - Laurence Edgar Skog (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, US National Herbarium) Taxonomy of Gesneriaceae and Coriariaceae.
- 1978 - Eric Newman Who was this? I had assumed it was Erik A. Neumann (U. S. National Arboretum, Unit Leader for Education and Visitor Services), but he tells me he was VP during Peter Mazzeo's presidency, but never served as president.
- 1979 - Richard Sumner Cowan (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, US National Herbarium) Bibliography, nomenclature, and taxonomy of neotropical Fabaceae.
- 1980 - Kittie Lucille Fenley Parker (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Research Associate in the US National Herbarium; retired professor from George Washington University) Asteraceae, floristics of the southwestern U. S.
- 1981 - Ted Ray Bradley (George Mason University, Associate Professor of Botany) Plant taxonomy; evolution and interspecific hybridization in *Triodanis*.
- 1982 - James Lauritz Reveal (University of Maryland) Taxonomy of Eriogonum; botanical history of the western U. S.
- 1983 - Stanwyn Gerald Shetler [Stan] (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, US National Herbarium) Campanulaceae, flora of the Washington DC area.
- 1984 - Lafayette Frederick (Howard University) Spore development in fungi, systematics and ecology of the myxomycetes, Dutch elm disease, antifungal substances in bacteria; won the AAAS Mentor Award in 1991.
- 1985 - Robert B. Faden (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, US National Herbarium) Commelinaceae, flora of tropical Africa.
- 1986 - Larry Eugene Morse (Nature Conservancy; later Nature Serve) Plant conservation.
- 1987 - Elizabeth Fortson Wells (George Washington University) Saxifragaceae; historical plants of the Washington area.
- 1988 - Marion Blois Lobstein (Northern Virginia Community College) Flora of Virginia, botanical education.
- 1989 - Muriel E. Poston (Howard University) Taxonomy of Loasaceae; biology education.
- 1990 - Dan Henry Nicolson (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, US National Herbarium) History of botany, nomenclature, bibliography, Araceae, tropical floras.
- 1991 - Joseph Harold Kirkbride (USDA Agricultural Research Service, curator of the US National Seed Herbarium) Taxonomy of Rutaceae, Fabaceae and Cucurbitaceae.
- 1992 - Deborah Bell (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, US National Herbarium) Management and conservation of botanical collections.
- 1993 - Douglas Ripley (U. S. Air Force; later Air National Guard) Conservation on military land.
- 1994 - Samuel Rainey (Retired) Nuclear physicist.
- 1995 - Raymond Petersen (Howard University) Fern and Carnivorous Plant Biology.
- 1996 - James Donald Lawrey (George Mason University) Lichens; environmental science; effects of air pollution on lichen floras.
- 1997 - Dieter Carl Wasshausen (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, US National

- Herbarium) Neotropical Acanthaceae.
- 1998 - Gene Rosenberg (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Department of Botany; after 2003, Associate Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, Florida International University) Physiological ecology, productivity, and biogeography of marine algae.
- 1999 - Harold Ernest Robinson (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, US National Herbarium) Asteraceae, mosses, flies.
- 2000 - Paul Michael Peterson (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, US National Herbarium) Taxonomy of grasses, esp. *Muhlenbergia*.
- 2001 - Jil Marie Swearingen (National Park Service) Invasive plants, integrated pest management.
- 2002 - Robert John Soreng [Rob] (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, US National Herbarium) Taxonomy of grasses, esp. *Poa*.
- 2003 - Peter Whitney (Teacher and consultant for several institutes; retired from the State Dept.) Foreign affairs.
- 2004 - Alan Thomas Whittemore (USDA Agricultural Research Service, U. S. National Arboretum) Taxonomy of Ulmaceae, Fagaceae, bryophytes; north temperate floras
- 2005 - Warren Eugene Steiner Jr. (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Department of Entomology) Tenebrionid beetles; general natural history.
- 2006 - Julie Hackney Moore (U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service) Endangered species; forest ecosystems of the southeastern U. S.
- 2007 - Roderick Hoyt Simmons (City of Alexandria) Flora of the mid-Atlantic area, especially endangered plants and communities.
- 2008 - Carol Lynn Kelloff (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, US National Herbarium) Biological diversity of the Guyana Shield; biogeography; flora of the mid-Atlantic area; ferns.
- 2009 - Patricia Lynn Ford (U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service - U.S. CITES Scientific Authority) International trade and conservation of plant species.
- 2010 - Laurence Joseph Dorr [Larry] (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, US National Herbarium) Taxonomy of Malvales; flora of northern Andes; botanical history & bibliography.
- 2011 - Carol Sue Spurrier (Bureau of Land Management) Ecology and management of western native plant communities; pollinator conservation.
- 2012 - Christopher Puttock (Executive Director, Chesapeake Natives, Inc.; Adjunct Assistant Professor at Univ. of Maryland) Conservation; native plant gardening; plants of the Pacific region.
- 2013 - Robin A. Everly (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, Botany and Horticulture library) Botanical and horticultural bibliography.
- 2014 - Vicki A. Funk (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, US National Herbarium) Systematics of Asteraceae; biological diversity of the Guiana Shield; phylogenetics & biogeography.
- 2015 - Karen Redden (University of the District of Columbia) Flora of the Guyanas; taxonomy of caesalpinoid legumes.
- 2016 - [William] Cavan Allen (USDA Agricultural Research Service) Plant and fungal nomenclature; aquatic plants.
- 2017 - Lewis (Lew) Gorman (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) Endangered species.
- 2018 - Erika Gardner (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, US National Herbarium) Herbarium management, flora of southern California.
- 2019 - Melanie Schori (USDA Agricultural Research Service) Nomenclature; taxonomy and reproductive anatomy of Aquifoliales.
- 2020 - John H. Wiersema (retired, formerly USDA Agricultural Research Service) Nomenclature; economic botany; taxonomy of Nymphaeaceae.
- 2021 - Shruti Dube (USDA Agricultural Research Service, National Germplasm Resources Lab) Herbarium management, botanical nomenclature.
- 2022 - Marcos A. Caraballo-Ortiz (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, US National Herbarium) Taxonomy of mistletoes; plants of the Caribbean.
- 2023 - Gabriel Paul Johnson (Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Natural History, US National Herbarium) Molecular phylogenetics, cryptogam morphology and development; microscopy.
- 2024 - Mary McKenna (Howard University) Plant community ecology, climate change, plant/soil interactions, and plant reproduction.
- 2025 - Greg Stull (USDA Animal and Plant Protection Inspection Service) Molecular phylogenetics, biogeography.