

## David Oswald Greenbank (1924-2005)

The last time I saw Dave he was in York Manor, a Fredericton nursing home. He seemed to enjoy my visit, although we were not close, and Dave was always a rather private person. Dave spent his entire working career in Fredericton with the Canadian Forestry Service and its antecedent Forest Biology Division of Agriculture Canada. It was pretty obvious he loved his work because the wall behind his bedside table was adorned with photos of aircraft, radar equipment and colleagues from CFS, Forest Protection Ltd., the Cranfield, England, Inst. of Technology, and other agencies involved in his biggest entomological project. But I get ahead of my story.



Dave was born in Yorkshire, England, 6 August 1924. He lost his mother at a young age, his father remarried, and he was educated in a boarding school, where he excelled at rugby and football (soccer). He emigrated to Canada shortly after the war and graduated from the University of New Brunswick with a BSc in Forestry in 1950. He earned an MScF at University of New Brunswick in 1954.

During World War II, Dave served in the Royal Navy, Fleet Air Arm, in which he piloted aircraft based on carriers. He trained for this in Pensacola, Florida. He didn't speak of actions against Germany, but did tell one story about the aircraft carrier, H.M.S. Venerable, being torpedoed in the Irish Sea, when all the planes were airborne. They had to find places to land in Ireland and Scotland.

His ship was reassigned to the Eastern Theatre where in one sortie the planes were told to make one pass and then return. The commanding officer and the adjutant made a second pass and were shot down, leaving the squadron without a commanding officer until a new one arrived from Britain. He completed his service participating in the occupation of Hong Kong after the Japanese surrender. He took charge of reactivating a brewery that had been idled by the Japanese because they preferred their own to British beer.

When I arrived at "the Lab" Dave was studying the cold hardiness of his fellow immigrant, the balsam wooly adelgid. His results were applicable in the forecasting of the spread of this insect in the Maritimes and the relative incidence of gout (top deformation) and stem attack. The late Reg Salt at Lethbridge was a key contact in this work.

Dave later joined the spruce budworm project where he studied the influence of climate on survival and, in particular, mass flights. He demonstrated that weather systems sustained mass flights such that gravid moths were transported to uninfested stands. This led to the so-called "radar project" which involved the detection of mass flights for purposes of prediction of outbreaks and spread. In the backs of their minds was the possibility of spraying the moths in the air and avoiding the necessity of spraying extensive stands to kill larvae later.

All of this work resulted in a number of publications and reports, including an ESC Memoir on spruce budworm moth flight and dispersal, which reported new understanding from observations in the tree canopy, by radar and from aircraft.

He never lost interest in physical activities: expertise in curling became an obsession, he played a mean game of squash, and he once got a hole in-one at golf.

Dave was predeceased by his first wife, Jane, in 1950, and his second wife Jean, in 1997. Surviving are daughters Susan, Cindy and Heather, sons Jonathan and Michael, their spouses, and ten grandchildren.

We retirees see one another less often as time passes. Nonetheless it will take some getting used to Dave not being there any longer.

— Douglas Eidt, Fredericton, New Brunswick (with help from David's former colleagues and his son Michael)