

Christopher John Read Sanders (1935-2005)



Chris Sanders was born on 7 October 1935 in Kent, England, where he later graduated from St. Edmonds School, Canterbury, in 1954. He served in the British Army in Germany from 1954 to 1956 as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers. Chris received his BA (Honours in forestry) from Oxford University in 1960. Chris immigrated to Canada after graduation where he worked as a forester for the New Brunswick Department of Lands and Mines. In 1962, he obtained a MSc from the Department of Forestry, University of New Brunswick, where his thesis was titled: *Biology of the carpenter ants of the Fredericton area, N.B.* In 1962, he worked for six months as a Research Scientist with the Canadian Department of Forestry in Fredericton, New Brunswick. He then entered a PhD program at the School of Natural Resources, University of Michigan, from which he graduated in 1965. His thesis, under the supervision of Fred B. Knight, was titled: *Natural regulation of the aphid *Pterocomma populifoliae*.* He was hired in 1965 as a Research Scientist with the Canadian Forestry Service in Sault Ste. Marie. With the exception of a brief foray into academia in 1985, he continued in that position until his retirement in 1997. From retirement until his passing, Chris enjoyed the status of Emeritus Scientist whilst continuing to further his research goals.

Chris' Honours dissertation while at Oxford, on mycorrhizal associations, was published in the journal *Plant and Science* and his MSc research on carpenter ants was also published in a peer-reviewed journal, *The Canadian Entomologist*. The results of Chris' PhD research were published in the prestigious journal *Ecology*. Chris continued this publication trend throughout his career with 59 additional papers in peer-reviewed journals, 51 in which he was the senior author. He also authored a total of more than 30 book chapters, symposium proceedings or technical reports.

The major focus of Chris' research was the development of pheromone-trap monitoring systems for forest insects, with emphasis on spruce and jack pine budworms. Chris was also actively involved in research on spruce budworm population dynamics, adult dispersal, mating behaviour, and development of sex pheromones for regulation of populations by mating disruption. Other areas of his research expertise included adult behaviour of white pine weevil, adult behaviour of gypsy moth in relation to mating disruption, behaviour and biology of carpenter ant, and bird populations and predation on Lepidoptera in the boreal forest.

Chris was actively involved in training the next generation of entomologists. He served as an adjunct professor at the University of Guelph, University of Toronto, and Lakehead University where he lectured and co-supervised three MSc and two PhD students. For a short period in 1985, he was employed as a Professor of Forest Entomology at the University of New Brunswick. He was also a sessional lecturer at Algoma University College in Sault Ste. Marie during the 1990s where he taught applied entomology.

Chris was a world-renowned scientist. He was invited to make presentations at symposia in Canada, United States, The Netherlands, France, England, Germany, Switzerland, Australia and Greece, often as a keynote speaker. He participated as a member of a Canadian Forest Service mission to China and a Sault Ste. Marie forestry delegation to Ecuador and Chile. He spent a year at Imperial College, London, U.K. on career development leave working with Professor J. S. Kennedy. He was also invited by CSIRO to undertake a career development leave in their Division of Entomology in Canberra, Australia in 1990- 1991 to work on mating-disruption strategies for the oriental fruit moth.

Chris was an active member of the Entomological Society of Ontario (ESO), Entomological Society of Canada, Entomological Society of America, and Canadian Institute of Forestry. Chris served as a Director of the ESO from 1995 to 1997 and in 2002 Chris was elected a Fellow of that Society.

Chris was a consummate naturalist and outdoorsman. He was an avid and competent birder, and an active participant in breeding bird surveys and counts, often acting in local and regional coordinator roles. After his retirement, sunny days meant that Chris was either hiking with a pair of binoculars or on the golf course. If the weather turned ugly, he would be found sitting at his desk working on one of his many projects. Chris was a regular on the cross-country ski trails in the Sault Ste. Marie area where he was often seen in the company of his dogs. On 17 May of this year Chris Sanders passed away suddenly while engaged in two of his favourite avocations, birding and sailing. Chris is survived by his wife Susan, son David, daughter Ann Boyonoski and grandchildren Garrett, Hannah and Meagen.

Chris was a friend, colleague and mentor to many. His keen sense of humour, valued opinion and sparkle in his eye will be greatly missed.

— Barry Lyons, Canadian Forest Service, Sault Ste. Marie