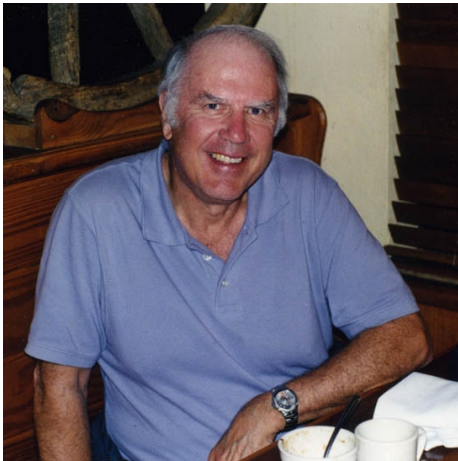




In Memoriam

Ronald C. Phillips
(1932 – 2005)



We are saddened by the death of our good friend Ronald C. Phillips. Dr. Phillips died on November 1, 2005, following a heart attack he suffered while at his home in the Ukraine. He was 73 years old.

Dr. Phillips earned the B.S. in Biology from Wheaton College (Illinois, 1954), the M.S. from Florida State University in Botany (1956), and the Ph.D. in Botany from the University of Washington (1972). Mentors in Florida encouraged Dr. Phillips to begin studies on seagrasses. Later, eelgrass was put on the map, both literally and figuratively, on the west coast of North America by his work in the 1960's and 1970's. His studies of phenotypic plasticity along latitudinal gradients, biogeography, and transplanting influenced both science and policy.

Dr. Phillips conducted research projects all over the world, leaving behind good friends throughout the United States, Central America, Europe, Australia, the Ukraine, the Philippines, and Bahrain. He published at least 55 articles on topics ranging from the description of cyanobacterial species to the ecology of eelgrass meadows, and in journals from *Syesis* to *Science*.

In addition, his 20 book chapters, 20 technical reports, 3 monographs and the 4 books he edited have proven invaluable to algal and seagrass biologists around the world.

In nearly 30 years of teaching at Seattle Pacific University, Dr. Phillips inspired many of his undergraduate students to research careers in botany, ecology, and marine biology. Students loved his courses, if for no other reason than they typically included a weekend field trip to a field station or camping. He taught field courses across the continental United States as well as in Canada, the Virgin Islands, Hawaii, Belize and Mexico. Today "undergraduate research" has become a common activity, supported by federal agencies and universities alike.

Dr. Phillips was ahead of his time, often involving undergraduates students in his research projects or helping them develop projects of their own.

Students and colleagues alike remember Dr. Phillips as immediately likeable. Many friends remember his passion for trap shooting, riding and racing motorcycles, SCUBA, skydiving, and photography. He could always liven up a conversation by telling stories of his adventures while working, from surveying eelgrass while being dragged behind a tow boat on an underwater sled to pirate attacks while camped on remote beaches. Despite having hip replacement surgery and a small stroke late in life, he maintained his research projects and hobbies until his death.

He will be missed.

*Timothy A. Nelson
Sandy Wyllie-Echeverria
Ronald M. Thom*