

Obituary Dr. John G. Streeter, 1936–2007

John Streeter was Review Editor and a valued member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Symbiosis* from 1996 until his death on June 26th, 2007. He was a congenial colleague and a source of wise counsel. Professor Margalith Galun, Founding Editor-in-Chief of *Symbiosis*, on hearing of John's death commented 'I am very sad about the news of the death of John Streeter. It was a pleasure to work with him. When I met him in the USA, I suggested he become Review Editor for *Symbiosis*. He accepted enthusiastically and was very efficient in this task. His contributions elevated the quality of the journal'. Members of the Editorial Board and of the International Symbiosis Society enjoyed interacting with John by email and meeting him at the International Symbiosis Congresses, most recently in Vienna, Austria in 2006 (photo below). Friends and colleagues of John Streeter at Ohio State University assembled the following obituary.

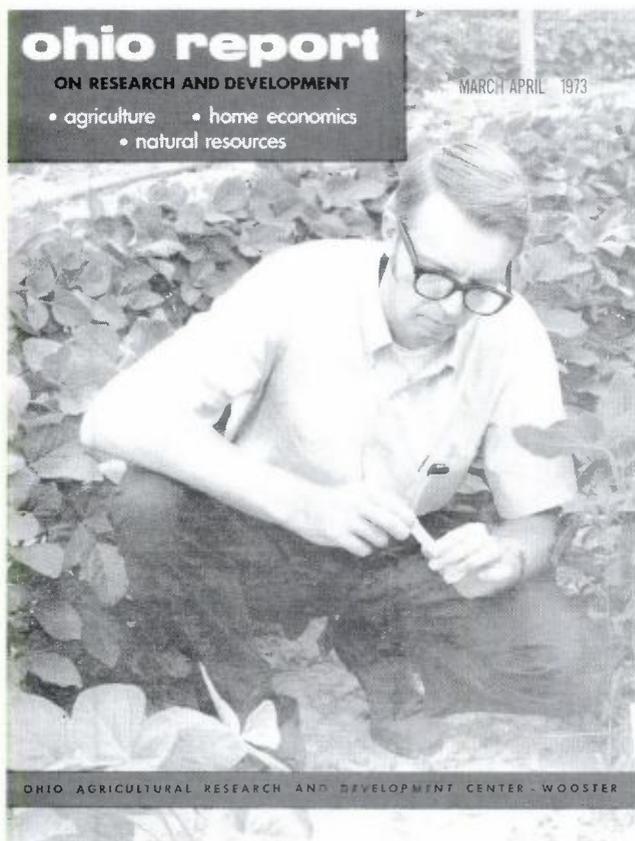
Prof. David Richardson, Editor-in-Chief *Symbiosis*

John G. Streeter was born and raised in Ellwood City, PA. During his high school years, he developed interests in agriculture and science and worked for 3 summers on a dairy farm in western Pennsylvania. He received a scholarship to study agriculture and enrolled at Penn State University, majoring in agronomy and graduating with honors in 1958. He worked for four years as a sales and technical representative for the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau Cooperative Association and returned to Penn State University in 1962 to start his MS studies in agronomy. For his MS, Dr. Streeter worked on nitrogen nutrition in barley and developed an interest in the application of computers for statistical analysis. He worked for 1½ years as a programming consultant at the Penn State University computer center. He also served his country in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves. In 1965, he was awarded an NSF Graduate Fellowship, to pursue PhD studies at any institution he desired. Dr. Streeter chose to work on amino



Symbiosis Editorial Board meeting at ISS Congress in Vienna, Austria in 2006.

Clockwise: Margalith Galun, Ethan Galun, David Richardson, Douglas Zook, John Streeter, Gopi Podilla, and Helmut Koenig.



acid metabolism in the U.S. Plant Soil and Nutrition Laboratory at Cornell University. Soon after finishing his PhD in 1968, Dr. Streeter accepted a position in Wooster, Ohio in the Agronomy Department at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, an experiment station associated with The Ohio State University. He initially worked on asparagine biosynthesis, computer simulation, and source-sink relationships in soybeans, but developed an interest and passion for nodules and symbiotic nitrogen fixation in the early 1970s. He provided the first quantitative inventories of carbohydrate compounds in legume nodules and this work has paved the way for numerous studies on the metabolism of carbohydrates in the cytosol and bacteroids of nodules. His work also included studies on mechanisms underlying the inhibition of nodules by nitrate, the role of pinitol in drought tolerance, and the physiology of trehalose production in Rhizobia. Dr. Streeter published over 100 refereed articles and 15 chapters and review articles.

Dr. Streeter traveled professionally and personally, returning recently from a trip with his family to Vienna, the site of his first professional leave, to renew acquaintances with long-time colleagues. He traveled extensively to Japan, as part of the U.S.-Japan Cooperative Agreement on Nitrogen Fixation, for which he was the original U.S. group leader.

Dr. Streeter enjoyed the open interaction with colleagues and peers and was heavily involved in service to professional societies and his department at Ohio State University. Within the American Society of Agronomy, he served as Chair of Division C-2 (1980–1981), was an associate editor for *Crop Science* (1974–1976, 1984–1986), and served on the Board of Directors (1980–1981). He became a fellow in the American Society of Agronomy in 1984 and the following year, became a fellow in the Crop Science Society of America. Dr. Streeter served on the editorial boards of *Plant Physiology* from 1985–1992 and *Symbiosis* from 1996–2007. In 1982, he received the American Soybean Researchers Recognition Award. In addition to being a contributor to professional societies, he was also a model citizen of the department and university, serving on numerous committees, including the Promotion and Tenure Committee, various long-range planning committees, and chairing several faculty search committees. Although committee work and faculty meetings were not always a favorite for Dr. Streeter, he faithfully attended and participated, guiding faculty and committee members through difficult situations, and helping to derive consensus conclusions, where they did not previously exist.

Saturday, April 24, 1982, Wooster, Ohio



SOYBEAN SCIENTISTS John Streeter (left) and Alan Walker have received a national award for their soybean research at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster. The 1982 Researchers' Recognition Program is an all-expense tour of five major U.S. soybean research facilities and two British facilities in July. OARDC photo



Intricacies fascinated scientist John Streeter: "We still have a lot to learn".

Dr. Streeter is recognized for his pioneering work in the area of nodulation and nitrogen fixation in soybean. He was the ultimate plant physiologist, studying basic nitrogen and carbon metabolism in soybean nodules throughout his career. He developed the tools for carbohydrate analyses in legume nodules and contributed greatly to our overall understanding of Rhizobia-plant interactions. Although officially retiring from the Horticulture and Crop Science Department at Ohio State University in 2004, he remained actively engaged and quite productive in continued research efforts until his death.

Family, music and gardening were very important in his life. He was an avid gardener, adding a greenhouse to his house for winter gardening and the earliest production of tomatoes that northern Ohio has ever seen. Daffodils, Clivia and Rex begonias thrived in his hand and plants were often shared with colleagues and neighbors. At his home, he enjoyed spending time in his large vegetable garden. Dr. Streeter was also an accomplished pianist, occasionally playing at jazz clubs in his college years. Over time, his love of music expanded to classical and he regularly attended Cleveland Orchestra concerts with his wife. His collection of classical CDs became quite extensive.



Dr. John Streeter is survived by his wife, Mary Alice of Wooster, OH; a son, Mark (Anne Marie) Streeter; granddaughters, Elena and Sophia of Madison, WI; a brother, Dr. Robert (Jean) Streeter of Murraysville, PA, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Prof. John Finer
Horticulture and Crop Science
The Ohio State University