
IN MEMORIAM

LLOYD OTIS TILFORD PETERSON, 1903-1996

W. VIC BEAULIEU, Indian Head, SK.

Lloyd Peterson died on 12 July 1996 at Indian Head. He was born in Wisconsin, 23 March 1903, son of Peter and Mathilda Peterson. In 1904 the family moved to Pathlow, Saskatchewan, and later to Bagley, north of Melfort, where Lloyd attended a country school. He completed high school in Kinistino. After completing teacher training in 1924, Lloyd taught in rural schools for three years. He received his BSc in Biology from the University of Saskatchewan in 1933 and an MSc in Entomology from the University of Minnesota in 1939.

Lloyd was employed as Insect Pest Investigator at the Dominion Entomological Laboratory, Indian Head, 1930-1939, and then as officer-in-charge from 1939-1957. In 1957, after the reorganization of forest entomology, he was transferred to the PFRA Forestry Station. He retired in 1968.

Lloyd's interest in and concern for the land and all living things developed early in life while he worked on the farm. Friendly and helpful, he wanted to share his appreciation of nature so that all might use it wisely. He was an early supporter of the *Blue Jay*. Mrs. Priestly's files contain letters from him in which he identified the insects she had sent to him in the years 1944-45. Stuart Houston remembers Lloyd's articles in the early issues of *Blue Jay*: an excellent

treatment of tree and shrub insects: 6(2):21-25, Jan.-Mar. 1946 and another on the ash borer: 6(3-4):4-6, Apr.-Sept. 1948. He and W.A. Worden co-authored an extensive article, "The Cecropia Moth in the Prairie Provinces": 20(1):28-33, March 1962.

Lloyd played a part in both the Yorkton and Indian Head Natural History Societies, as well as in the Provincial Society. When the Saskatchewan Natural History Society was formed in 1949, he was named a director, a position he retained until 1955. He was particularly concerned with maintaining a strong, active membership in the provincial society. Apart from the personal benefits members would derive, Lloyd felt that there was a real need for a large, well-informed membership to influence those who make the critical decisions on the use of our natural resources. While serving as membership chairman from 1972 to 1976, he stressed the importance of personal contact. He began a campaign of writing personal letters to recently lapsed members. He circulated brochures, leaflets and sample copies of *Blue Jay* to prospective members. His effective personal touch resulted in a yearly increase in membership. In 1973, for example, membership rose by 17% from 1,069 to 1,249.

Assisted by Mary Skinner, Rose McLaughlin and Lorne Scott, Lloyd

organized the 1971 Provincial Summer Meeting at Indian Head. A record 250 people attended. Because families and school children had been asked to participate, the summer meet created great interest in the Indian Head area. On October 8 1971, 18 persons met at the Peterson home and the Indian Head Natural History Society was formed. Through the efforts of Lloyd and Betty Asmore the membership grew to between 35 and 40 members and remained at that level until the early 1990s.

In 1977 Lloyd was appointed Provincial Society representative to the Fishing Lakes Special Planning Area Commission. He served until 1983, helping steer the Commission through a difficult organizational and developmental period. Thanks to his thoroughness, understanding, hard work, and quiet manner, Lloyd helped solve many problems in this early stage of development.

In his later years Lloyd continued to maintain his interest in the Natural History Society. In his eighty-fifth

year he helped local children build nesting boxes for bluebirds and Wood Ducks, and platforms for Canada Geese. He loved his family and cherished his friends. Frugal in his use of all resources, he was generous with his time and talents. He wanted to share the beauty he saw in nature. Some time ago Lloyd and I were walking over the hills on his land in the Cherry and Marguerite Lakes area south of Indian Head. It was a bright, warm fall day and the colours were at their height. After climbing out of the valley to the top of a hill, Lloyd stopped, looked around him, then turned to me and said, "This is what renews my body and strengthens my spirit."

We who knew Lloyd Peterson celebrate his long life and are thankful for having known him. It was most fitting that on the evening of 15 July Lloyd's family and friends gathered in the cemetery at Indian Head. The sun was low in the sky, the air warm and still. After a brief service Lloyd's ashes were laid to rest in the shelter of an ash tree.



Mated pair of Spread-Winged Damselflys (Lestes sp.)

Hans Dommasch