

Letters

Emeritus Members of APS Are Tremendous Resource

I read Mal Shurtleff's editorial in the June issue of *PLANT DISEASE* (page 488) with great interest. I agree with him concerning the need to increase the involvement of our emeritus members in our Society. We are missing out on a tremendous and, I might say, irreplaceable resource.

I find, however, that I must take issue with Mal concerning several statements he makes under point one concerning the history of our science. Courses on the history of plant pathology are not extinct—I offer a course (a required course for all Ph.D. students) every other

year on this subject. Also, a course was recently offered at Colorado State University. Admittedly, the number of such examples is few.

Second, we have had a book published since the one by Whetzel. G. C. Ainsworth authored a book entitled *Introduction to the History of Plant Pathology* that was published by Cambridge University Press in 1981. Also, a great deal of history is included in the books by Andrew Denny Rogers on E. F. Smith and by C. M. Christensen on E. C. Stakman.

Much remains to be done in documenting and preserving the history of plant pathology. We must take full advantage of the knowledge, memories, and wisdom of our senior scientists, and

couple this with the energy and enthusiasm of our younger scientists. In this way we can preserve our heritage and learn from those who came before us.

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