

a multitude of delicious fruit jams. A perfect day for Ted would be spent listening to bird calls while picking Pine Barrens blueberries, hiking along old railroad ties in search of snakes, then capping off the day over a hot stove making blueberry jam.

Ted was efficient and productive and knew he wanted to be a biologist since the fifth grade. He received his AB in Biology from Oberlin College in 1968 and his PhD in Zoology from the University of Washington in 1973. He taught biology courses at Rutgers University for 35 years. In his spare time, he kept over 70 land preservation projects going at a time. He served on many non profit boards. The list is long, as is his substantial contribution to their missions: The Willowwood Foundation, the Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space, the Stony Brook Millstone Watershed Association, the D&R Greenway Land Trust, the Mercer County Open Space Board, the Nature Conservancy, the Hopewell Township Environmental Commission and Open Space Committee, the Crossroads of the American Revolution, the Municipal Land Use Resource Center, the Planned Parenthood Association of the Mercer Area, and the Organization for Tropical Studies, among many.



Ted loved plants, especially at Willowwood. With his enthusiasm and passion, along with a firm vision for what was possible, he attracted many Rutgers students to Willowwood. He engaged them in establishing a comprehensive computerized database (still in use today) of Willowwood's diverse and astounding assemblage of plants. Visitors today learn from the plant identification tags found throughout the arboretum thanks to Ted.



Dr. Edmund 'Ted' Stiles Observation Platform Dedication

**The Willowwood Foundation
Morris County Park Commission**

Past President of the Willowwood Foundation and long term trustee, Dr. Edmund W. "Ted" Stiles was a Rutgers Professor and scientist whose passion was the natural world. His students went on to conserve wildlife habitat around the world. A conservationist, he led the movement to save tens of thousands of acres. At Willowwood, Ted's greatest contribution was to oversee the plant collections' curation so that the botanical history was preserved. Ted also served on the Willowwood Arboretum Committee, helping to shape its horticultural future in accordance with the wishes of the Tubbs and Dr. Blackburn.

Willowwood Arboretum
300 Longview Rd., Chester Twp., NJ
September 16, 2012

Dedication Program

The Stiles Observation Platform

1 pm



David Helmer, Executive Director, MCPC

Rob Diemar, President, Willowwood Foundation

William Stiles

Michele Byers

Dr. Emile DeVito, NJCF

Willowwood Meadow Walks

By

Dr. Emile DeVito, Manager of Science & Stewardship,

New Jersey Conservation Foundation

Ted loved to walk the trails of Willowwood and this new observation platform has been set to overlook the Willowwood Meadows and provide a place of rest and contemplation to hikers.

We hope you will join Dr. Emile DeVito of the New Jersey Conservation Foundation, in a meadow walk following this dedication, to honor Ted.

Dr. Edmund 'Ted' Stiles

Black capped chickadee, Carolina wren, chipping sparrow, flying squirrel, dusky salamander, lilac breasted roller... the list goes on. It's this natural world that was so well known and so very well loved by Ted Stiles. Ted knew the songs and flight patterns of birds. He collected and studied their favorite fruits. An expert on bumblebees, having collected and identified over 1000 species and he made the best ever owl calls, especially the call of the highly vocal barred owl.

Most of all, Ted loved forests; tropical forests, deciduous forests, alpine forests, riparian forests, any forests, all forests. He loved to walk quietly and slowly through the woods, watching and listening for wildlife and photographing fruits and flowers.

As a teacher and scientist, Ted shared this deep knowledge and passion with students, friends and family, and influenced and mentored many in the study of the natural world. Dozens of his students went on to conserve wildlife habitat around the world. Ted was a special teacher. He sang and played guitar for his students and brought in cookies and donuts at test time.

Ted figured out that learning and teaching was not enough, especially in New Jersey whose natural areas were rapidly converting to pavement. Ted began to preserve land. He started with land surrounding the Hutcheson Memorial Forest in Somerset County, the site of the last and largest uncut patch of virgin hardwoods in New Jersey. From there Ted moved to the Hope-well Valley and for twenty years he convinced landowners of the wonderful benefits and joys of preserving their lands, and ultimately preserved tens of thousands of acres. While Ted believed in the ecological value of even very small patches of land, his biggest contribution was a successful ten year campaign that permanently preserved Baldpate Mountain, now a Mercer County park.

Ted researched the things that he loved: birds and fruits. He collected fruit on every trip (he always had zip lock bags in his pocket), he enlisted family and friends to collect fruit, he analyzed its chemistry, photographed it and, in his free time, made a multitude of delicious fruit jams. A perfect day for Ted would be spent listening to bird calls while picking Pine Barrens blue-