

IN MEMORIAM:

PROFESSOR EMERITUS CHARLES EDWARD CLAPP, JR.
(August 29th, 1930 - August 7th, 2018)



Charles E. Clapp was a key member of the scientists group who were the founding core of the IHSS, who joined each other in the fall of 1982 in Estes Park, CO, USA, focusing on the idea of forming a society that would promote research on natural organic matter and humic substances. From the earlier days of the Society, we all realized that Ed Clapp, this pleasant, easy going and humble person, would share his knowledge, talents and dedication with all of us. Shortly after the first gathering of the core of early bird scientists who formed this society, some of us realized that this dear person would be of great help to the Society.

A major activity of the Society was establishing a collection of samples - standard and reference samples of humic and fulvic acids representing a wide range of soils and waters from around the world, extracted by the employment of a uniform standard procedure formulated by the board and its members. Collection of soils and waters was achieved by volunteering distinguished members of the Society. Late Ron Malcolm and others were the driving power behind the establishment of this collection, which rapidly developed in its number of samples. A sales system was developed aiming at providing the membership and others, with small amounts of these samples

to facilitate comparison of analytical measurement performed on these samples and also the ability to compare these with self-extracted samples.



Figures: Left: C.E.Clapp; Right: C.E.Clapp and Mike H.B. Hayes at work.

In 1993, Ed was elected treasurer, a time when the Society was having difficulties, with meeting the requirements of a well-run non-profit society. The position of treasurer fitted so well the supreme personal properties of our friend C. E. Clapp (our Ed) from the University of Minnesota – St. Paul Campus. Ed was a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) scientist holding a position of adjunct soil chemistry and fertility professor with the Department of Soil, Water and Climate of the College of Food, Agriculture and Natural Sciences, an important college within the University of Minnesota (UMN) at the St. Paul campus. Soon we all realized that our selection was been an ideal one. Ed worked tirelessly to reregister the Society with the proper government agencies and to assure continued good management and that the finances of the Society were in good order and in agreement with the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requirements. Ed held the position of treasurer until 2006.

In 1993, the question arose as to who would continue to manage the sales of the Collection and where we would permanently store the soils of origin of these samples and the extracted samples. Who volunteered for this challenging job? Here was Ed,

who agreed to take on the job and arranged for storage space at the UMN and to manage the sales from his laboratory at the UMN. The Collection was administered by Ed Clapp until 1996 when Paul Bloom took over the management of the sales while Ed managed the finances. Improvements in management of the Collection, initiated by Ed, greatly increased revenue allowing for expansion of activities funded by the Society. Revenues from sales from the Collection currently support international symposia, national symposia, travel to board meetings, travel of honorary members, support of research projects for a new generation of young scientist, support for training awards and the support for up to twenty young scientists (per conference) for their travel and participation in the IHSS conferences.

As the result of Ed's hard work the Society found itself in the very pleasant situation of being able to support its young incoming generation at a level that only much larger societies could afford. The key person administrating this activity has been for many years our dear friend – Ed. Obviously, the presidents, presidents elect, past presidents, secretaries and board members shared the efforts and contributed. Yet in the center, starring for so many years - was C. E. Clapp. In 2006, the Society honored Ed with the Distinguished Service Award.

Indeed, his talent, his peaceful and personal approach to people, his smile and friendship expressed towards all – professors and students alike and his professional approach toward the diverse and demanding activities of IHSS, provided the best service the Society one can ever dream of.

Rest in peace dear friend, dear Ed - your memory will stay with us forever and ever.

Main positions and activities of Prof. C. E. Clapp

- Treasurer 1993 - 2006
- Acting Collection Chair 1993 - 1996
- IHSS Distinguished Service Awardee in 2006
- 1956 - 1961 USDA- Beltsville MD
- 1961 - 2007 USDA-University of Minnesota
- Total of 51 years of government service

Yona Chen

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel

and

Paul Bloom

University of Minnesota, MI, USA