
**Memorial Resolution of the Faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison
On the Death of Professor Emeritus Arthur E. Peterson**

Arthur E. Peterson, emeritus professor of soil science and extension soil scientist died on January 26, 2015 at the age of 91. He was born on the family farm near Curtiss, Wisconsin on March 11, 1923, the son of Anna (Thompson) and Edwin Peterson. He attended a one-room school and graduated from Owen High School. Art was inspired to pursue soil science by his uncle, Dr. Carl Thompson, a faculty member in the Department of Soil Science, and began his college studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison with the aid of a Sears Roebuck Agriculture Foundation Scholarship. Art married Eva Ann Mundth on February 13, 1944 in Reedsburg, Wisconsin.

World War II interrupted his schooling and he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps working in the meteorology program. After a year he transferred to the Army Signal Corps and served 18 months in Europe with the 3124th Signal Port Service Company. He was a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge.

Art returned to the UW-Madison and received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from the College of Agriculture. He joined the faculty of the Department of Soil Science in 1950 where he did agricultural extension work throughout the state, and taught and conducted research in the area of soil and water conservation. His early research studied the planting of crops without plowing, now known as no-till farming, which has become a widely practiced soil conservation method. He developed a unique method of reporting frost depth state-wide by cooperative work with cemetery caretakers and published these results in the weekly Wisconsin Crop Reporting Service newsletter. In his later years he focused on the issues related to the management of municipal biosolids and was known as a strong supporter of recycling this material by land application. Art taught a course in Soil and Water Management for 30 years that was highlighted by a 120-mile aerial field trip where students could visualize drainage and erosion issues in the state's glaciated and un-glaciated regions. In 1958, Art established what is now the longest running cropping systems trial at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which is used to evaluate the impacts of continuous corn production on soil quality. He retired from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1994.

Art also accepted opportunities to take his knowledge around the world on various international agriculture projects. In 1965, he took a leave from the University and joined the Rockefeller Foundation as Chief Resident consultant to the Egyptian Minister of Agriculture. Along with his wife and their three sons they lived in or near Cairo, Egypt for nearly two years. When the Six Day War cut their stay short they lived in Bangkok, Thailand for three months working on the Rockefeller Foundation Corn Project. Art returned to Egypt five more times on agricultural projects and also accepted research and educational assignments in Syria, Armenia, and Indonesia.

Art maintained many professional affiliations and received numerous academic awards over his career. These include the J. S. Donald Excellence in Teaching Award, Water Environment Federation Industrial Waste Control Award, and the U.S. EPA Beneficial Biosolids Use Award. He was a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Soil and Water Conservation Society of America, and the American Society of Agronomy. He was a member of the American Society of Agronomy, the Soil Science Society of America, the International Soil Science Society, the Soil Conservation Society of America, the American

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Society of Agricultural Engineers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the International Soil Tillage Research Organization, the Wisconsin Academy of Science, Arts, and Letters, the Wisconsin Farm City Council, and the UW Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni Association.

Art was active in many local organizations. He was a charter member of the West Madison Kiwanis Club. He was president of the West Madison Little League and served as the Little League District 4 Administrator for 15 years. In 1996, the Madison Service Club Council recognized him as "Mr. Olympian of the Year". He was an active member of Bethel Lutheran Church, serving on the Church Council and as president of the Media Board, teaching high school Sunday school, participating in the Bethel Couples Club and Men's Book Study, and was Sound and Light Coordinator for church services. Art was a longtime member of the Madison-Oslo Sister City committee and with Eva, visited Norway several times.

Art enjoyed sports and held season tickets for Badger football, basketball, and hockey for decades. He loved to spend time on the family's 50 acres located on the north fork of the Flambeau River in northern Wisconsin. He was an energetic person who lived his life to the fullest. His warmth and compassion for others was inspiring. Perhaps most importantly, Art was deeply devoted to his family.

Art is survived by his three sons, Donald (Linda) of Eden Prairie, Minn., Robert (Barbara) of Milwaukee, and William (Lois) of Middleton, in addition to six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Eva, with whom he shared 66 years.

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