

## OBITUARY

**Paul Gordon Jarvis**

23 May 1935 – 5 February 2013



*Professor Paul Gordon Jarvis was a well-known plant ecophysiologicalist who was a pioneer in a wide range of investigation on the responses of plants and tree communities to the environment. Paul proved and confirmed a strong link between forests and the atmosphere. He started massive and comprehensive investigations on gas exchange, its spatial variability and relation to stand micro-climate. Because of his enthusiasm, deep knowledge and human quality he was a very well respected person in this area.*

*Paul's education started in Oxford, where he studied botany at the Oriel College. He graduated at Sheffield. Because of NATO scholarship Paul moved to the Institute of Plant Physiology in Uppsala (Sweden) at the end of his PhD studies. During this time he was deeply interested in water regime in plants. In 1964 he moved to Australia, where Paul took up a position of a permanent visiting scientist at CSIRO. The main part of Paul's professional career was developed and realized in the UK, first at Aberdeen from 1966 to 1975, and then at Edinburgh, where he became Professor of Forestry and Natural Resources in 1975. He stayed in Edinburgh until he retired in 2001. During those 35 years, Paul's scientific career and reputation developed enormously. Paul's research activities and ideas were very innovative and very often ground-breaking studies on several aspects of the ecophysiology of forest trees, physiology of stomata behavior, dynamic studies on light penetration into forest canopies, water status of trees and the micro-meteorological measurement of fluxes of water vapor and carbon dioxide above the canopy. Paul was the first dealing with the investigation of physiological response of trees to long-term effects of enhanced carbon dioxide. All these Paul's activities were typically innovative combinations of physically-grounded principles, intelligent approaches, and deep knowledge of the fundamental physiology of trees.*

*Paul was the inciter of the development of one of the first process-based models of forest function, MAESTRO. This model has been utilized by forest ecophysiologicalists for various purposes for at least three decades. Paul was actively involved in the development and improvement of the micro-meteorological method used in the measurement of gas fluxes from forests, which leads to the*

*eddy covariance technique. The approach is currently widely used in the investigations on the carbon cycle around the world. In the area of tree physiology and ecophysiology, Paul was an author or co-author of several fundamental books and reviews oriented to topics ranging from modeling of stomata function, plant water relations and hydraulics, water vapor and carbon dioxide fluxes from leaves to landscape and the effects of elevated CO<sub>2</sub> on terrestrial vegetation. Paul coordinated and participated in several very important international projects realized in different parts of the world, from the boreal forests of Canada to the Sahel in Africa and became a leading person in the EU-funded ECOCRAFT and EUROFLUX projects, the first multinational effort to deeply investigate and evaluate the problem of the response of terrestrial vegetation to climate change. Moreover, these activities were accompanied by Paul's significant personal effort to include teams from the former communist countries into EU projects.*

*Paul was a founding member of the journal Plant, Cell and Environment, and served on the Review Board of several other international journals including Photosynthetica. He was the President and a Council member of the Society for Experimental Biology, various Research Council Boards, and he was a Commissioner of the Countryside Commission for Scotland; he was part of several Scientific Steering Committees, including the IGBP and the John Muir Trust. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society, Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Agriculture and Forestry, the Royal Science Society of Uppsala, the Institute of Chartered Foresters and the Institute of Biology and was awarded the Gregorius J. Mendel Medal by the Academy of Science of the Czech Republic for his really deep and fruitful collaboration, support and services to science of that country.*

*Paul educated many PhD students and postdoctoral scientists, and supported many students who demonstrated a real interest. Paul's vitality and never-ending interest shown during scientific debates at conferences and seminars was widely known.*

*After his retirement to Aberfeldy in 2001, Paul continued to be very active and became involved in the restoration of native woodlands on the over-browsed hills of Scotland.*

*Paul was a widely admired and universally respected person. His love for science was admirable. Paul was a respected and honored person across countries and generations. Paul's absence is evident and he will be a forever honored person in the field of the forest ecology.*

M.V. MAREK (Brno)