

## In Memoriam Joseph A. Veech, 1939–2005

Joseph A. Veech, Fellow of the Society of Nematologists and dear friend of many nematologists around the world, died 7 June 2005 at the St. Joseph Regional Health Center in Bryan, Texas, following a long illness. Joe was born in Passaic, New Jersey, on 2 June 1939 and grew up in New Jersey. He received a B.S. degree in Forestry and Botany from Louisiana Tech University in 1962 and an M.S. degree in Plant Pathology in 1964 from the University of Georgia. He continued his studies and research at the University of Georgia, receiving the Ph.D. in Plant Physiology and Biochemistry in 1967.

Joe joined the Agricultural Research Service in 1967 as a National Academy of Sciences Post Doctoral Fellow at the Disease Resistance Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland, and in 1969 he was hired as a Research Plant Physiologist at the Disease Resistance Lab in Beltsville. In 1972 he moved to College Station, Texas, to join the newly formed National Cotton Pathology Research Laboratory (currently the ARS Cotton Pathology Research Unit).

Throughout his career, Joe's research efforts focused on physiology of the host-parasite interaction, primarily with cyst and root-knot species, and mechanisms of host resistance to nematodes in cotton and other crops. He adopted *in situ* histochemical microtechniques for the study of nematode interactions within plants. Joe was also involved in the characterization of esophageal gland secretions of *Meloidogyne* species. At the end of his career Joe was working on the identification of nematode resistance sources in Kenaf.

Throughout his career, Joe was involved in international nematology, with assignments in Pakistan and Brazil for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Bank, and EMBRAPA.

Joe was highly active in the Society of Nematologists for many years. In addition to service on numerous standing and ad hoc committees for the society, Joe was the Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Nematology* (1981–1983) and then served in the elective offices of Vice President (1984–1985), President-Elect (1985–1986), and President (1986–1987). As part of his activities while serving in these elective offices, Joe coordinated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Society of Nematologists and co-edited the commemorative text *Vistas on Nematology*.

Although renowned for his outspoken manner, Joe was also known for his sense of humor. His laughter was



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often heard in the hallways of our meeting sites. Two of his passions, in addition to nematology, were helping others and fishing. Throughout his career, Joe made it a point to become acquainted with young nematologists and was also a willing mentor. As an editor, he worked hard with young scientists to help polish and improve their manuscripts. When Joe was not working on nematology, he was likely to be getting ready to go fishing, actually fishing—either at a local lake or in the Gulf of Mexico, cleaning fish, or mounting a particularly nice fish caught by himself, a family member, or friend.

Joe retired from ARS in 1992 and since has resided in Bryan, Texas. Survivors include his wife Frances Veech of Bryan; two sons and daughters-in-law, Joe Veech and Marilyn Banta of Windsor, Colorado, and Matt and Holly Veech of Houston; two daughters and sons-in-law, Kelly and Bill Von Gonten and Cindy and Drayton Prator, all of Houston; and seven grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the St. Joseph Foundation Cardiac Center, P.O. Box 993, Bryan, TX 77805.

*A. F. Robinson and J. L. Starr*