

**George Damon Fuller**  
**1869–1961**

Dr. George Damon Fuller, distinguished botanist and ecologist who died November 22, 1961 at the age of 92, will be long remembered by friends and students who felt his influence during his many active years. Dr. Fuller was born in Adamsville, Quebec, Canada, in 1869. He received his BA degree from McGill University, Toronto, in 1901. In 1907 he became an Associate in the School of Education at the University of Chicago and then began his long professional association with Chicago and the State of Illinois. While at the university he became interested in plant ecology, earning his MA in botany in 1909, after which he was appointed instructor at the University. He completed his Ph.D. degree in 1913, continued his teaching and in 1933, five years before his retirement was appointed Professor of plant ecology. During these years as an able and enthusiastic teacher he influenced many students who are still active in ecological circles. He also published numerous papers, most of them dealing with physiographic ecology and the edaphic relationships of Illinois prairie and forest areas. From 1931 to 1940 he was editor of *Ecology* and he also participated actively in the work of the Illinois Academy of Science, A.A.A.S., and other scholarly organizations.

Upon his retirement from the University of Chicago in 1938 at the age of 69, he joined the Illinois State Museum where he served for 18 years as curator of Botany. There he remained an active and tireless worker. In these years he expanded the Museum herbarium collection from approximately 1,000 to 50,000 mounted and identified specimens of Illinois plants. During these years he also served as one of the senior authors of *Vascular Plants of Illinois*.

During all his years whether at the University, at the Museum, or even after his retirement as Curator Emeritus on his 87th birthday, he never tired of helping students, colleagues and amateur botanists as well, to share his infectious enthusiasm for field botany and ecology. His unflagging delight in field work and excitement at a new find will be recalled by all those who knew him.

As befits a man who fulfilled two careers in botany he leaves two enduring memorials: his important contributions to the literature dealing with the flora and ecology of Illinois and a continuing legacy in his inspiration and encouragement of others.

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