A Memorial to D. Craig Edwards (1939-2004)

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by H. Allen Curran & Hilary Edwards Lithgow

The
11th Symposium
on the
Natural History
of the
Bahamas

June 23 - June 27, 2005
Gerace Research Center
San Salvador, Bahamas
A MEMORIAL TO:
D. CRAIG EDWARDS
(1939-2004)

D. Craig Edwards, long-time researcher, visiting course instructor, and friend of the Gerace Research Center passed away on November 8, 2004 at his home in Leverett, Massachusetts after a lengthy and courageous struggle with cancer. Craig was last on San Salvador in January 2004 with a spirited class of UMass and Five College marine biology students. His illness was in remission, and he was very happy to be back on San Salvador, leading field trips, taking research samples, and interacting with students and colleagues. Later in the year, the cancer returned and was determined to be inoperable. Craig calmly informed his friends of his condition, and, although in obvious pain at times, he was out-and-about attending lectures and conversing with colleagues until the very end.

Craig spent the greater part of his academic career at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where he was a professor in the Department of Biology and taught a variety of courses in population and community ecology, marine ecology, and natural history. A native of Pennsylvania, Craig received a B.A. degree in zoology from Swarthmore College in 1961, graduating with distinction and election to Phi Beta Kappa. He went directly into the graduate ecology program at the University of Chicago where he held an NSF Predoctoral Fellowship and received the Ph. D. degree in 1965. With his new degree and an NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship in hand, Craig accepted a year-long post-doc position at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California, after which he was recruited to an assistant professorship in the Department of Zoology at UMass. He remained at UMass until the time of his retirement at the end of the 2002 academic year.

With research interests in the population and community ecology of marine shallow-water and intertidal benthic invertebrates, Craig was very much a field-oriented ecologist, and he conducted studies on the Pacific coast from Oregon to Mexico and the Atlantic coast from Nova Scotia to Florida and the Bahamas. Craig's research stressed experimental field study and careful quantitative analysis, with his favored group being marine gastropods. He is well known for his research on the snails *Olivella biplicata* and *Polinices duplicatus*. Craig also encouraged both graduate and undergraduate students to join in his research, and he was the major advisor for 7 Ph. D. and 11 M.S. degree stu-dents, with research projects on a variety of shallow marine ecology topics.

Craig was a founding member of the Five College Coastal and Marine Sciences Program Steering Committee, along with his UMass colleague and friend, Paul Godfrey. Through the activities of this program, Craig met Al Curran and Brian White of Smith College, who encouraged Craig and Paul to visit the Bahamian Field Station. Fortunately both took the bait and soon became converts to the study of the natural history of the Bahamas and the joys of investigating the ecology of the blue holes and lakes of the great interior wilderness of San Salvador. Along with Larry Davis, University of New Haven, Craig and Paul initiated studies of the northeastern section of the San Salvador interior. The trails, trail map, and descriptions of the natural environments of this region,
published in 1994, have been of great value to many other researchers and students on San Salvador for over a decade.

Craig served as an active member of the GRC Research Committee for over a decade, and he was a regular attendee of the Bahamas Natural History Symposia. Along with Nancy Elliott and Paul Godfrey, he was co-editor of the 1996 Proceedings of the 6th Symposium on the Natural History of the Bahamas volume. Craig and Paul led many UMass-Five College field courses to San Salvador in the 1990s through January 2004.

Those who knew him well will remember Craig's passion for late-night conversation, competitive volleyball (played throughout western Massachusetts), and fieldwork on San Salvador. When at the GRC, his class groups usually occupied the small lab in the far northeast corner of the "T" building. Here Craig could regularly be found working late into the evening sorting and making counts from his blue hole and lake samples, always well supplied with several cigars and a bit of rum. Craig also was an avid reader and frequent letter writer. It always was a real joy to receive one of Craig's carefully crafted and thoughtful letters, in his clear, beautiful handwriting.

Craig is survived by his former spouse, Lee Edwards, a professor of English literature at UMass, and his daughter to whom he was devoted, Hilary Edwards Lithgow, a recent Ph. D. graduate in English literature from Stanford University and now an assistant professor of Literature at the Wilkes Honors College of Florida Atlantic University. Craig Edwards will be greatly missed by his many fellow researchers, instructors, staff members, and friends within the Gerace Research Center community.

Craig Edwards and Hilary Edwards Lithgow, somewhere in the northeastern interior of San Salvador.
The Bahamas Bibliography of D. Craig Edwards


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