

Harvard Lyman

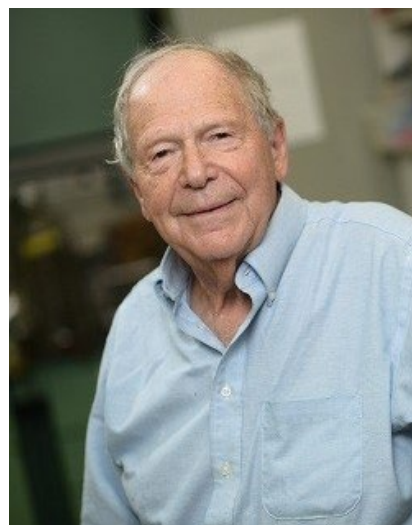
How did you spend your career?

When I entered the University of California at Berkeley, I chose chemistry as my major. The chemistry labs were taught in an old building that reeked of sulfur all day long and the thought of working there was discouraging, so I consulted the College catalog where majors were listed alphabetically. The first major was Anthropology, but a quick look suggested it was mostly about bones and skeletons. The second major was Botany. I got a copy of the class textbook, and I was hooked.

What do you consider your most important contribution to plant science?

My most important research contribution was studying regulation of the light-mediated replication and synthesis of chloroplasts. We determined the action spectra of chloroplast replication and synthesis in the unicellular alga, *Euglena gracilis*. The chloroplast genome regulated plastid replication, while the synthesis of plastid components was a function of the nuclear genome.

An additional project was the redox regulation of phototaxis



in *Euglena gracilis*, where we used photosynthetic mutants and chloroplast-free mutants that can swim freely but cannot respond to light.

How did ASPB impact your career?

I received much valuable advice and information through my association with ASPB. In general, I learned a great deal at meetings and formed many long-lasting friends and colleagues. The critiques of my posters and presentations were helpful and the source of additional experiments.

What Advice would you offer a young person considering a career in plant biology?

Talk to a senior professor and ask them how and why they chose the field. Then talk to a student working in plant science and ask them the same thing. Do you like working in the field or does lab

work excite you? Does the value of plants in society interest you? Are you aware that plants can be the source of not only food but also energy, building materials, drugs, cleansing of polluted waters and the atmosphere, and the source of beauty and serenity.