

Charles F. Wurster

**Robert E. Smolker Memorial Lecture  
in Conservation and the Environment**

**In Honor Of**

**Charles F. Wurster**

*Celebrating His Enduring Contributions to  
An Environmental Success Story*

**The DDT Story: EDF and the Return of  
Our Endangered Birds**

**Ian Nisbet** on *The Effects of DDT and the Recovery After the Ban*

**Michael Scheibel** on *The Return of Long Island Ospreys*

**Michael J. Bean** on *Saving Imperiled Wildlife: The Challenge Ahead.*

2 - 5 P.M., Tuesday, April 25, 1995

at the SUNY Marine Sciences Research Center; Reservation A Must  
call 632-8781 for information; Contribution \$5

*Sponsored by Marine Sciences Research Center, Environmental Defense Fund,  
Ecology and Evolution Department*

## The Charles F. Wurster Symposium

Sponsored by Marine Sciences Research Center  
and  
Environmental Defense Fund

We invite you to join us for an afternoon of seminars at the Marine Sciences Research Center, State University of New York at Stony Brook, followed by an evening dinner at the Three Village Inn to honor Dr Charles F. Wurster Jr. for his work in protecting the environment. We are honored to have Mr. William Ruckelshaus, past Administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency as the dinner speaker. We hope that you will join us for this celebration of Dr. Wurster's career and his contributions to the health of our environment.

In 1962 Rachel Carson's book "Silent Spring" was published calling attention to the potential danger of DDT and other chlorinated hydrocarbons. In 1965, a young scientist, Dr. Charles F. Wurster, Jr. arrived at the University at Stony Brook to begin a life-long career of teaching and research into the undesirable side-effects of pesticides. His scientific efforts were essential to the banning of DDT. Because of that decision, numerous species of endangered birds including the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, brown pelican and the osprey are returning to healthy populations levels.

Dr. Wurster was the researcher who contributed to and understood the scientific literature on the effects of DDT and was able to prepare that record for the legal challenges that led to the ban on DDT. The first of those challenges occurred in a court in Riverhead, N.Y. in 1966. This lawsuit prompted the Suffolk County Legislature to ban DDT even before the court handed down a decision. Further challenges in 1967 in Michigan stopped the use of DDT and dieldrin which threatened to pollute Lake Michigan. In Wisconsin an adjudicatory hearing was held in 1968 in which the scientific case against DDT led to a state-wide ban. Finally in 1972, EPA Administrator William Ruckelshaus banned DDT nationwide.

The ban on DDT resulted in the recovery of a number of significant species. Nowhere was the effect more dramatic than on Long Island where the osprey's population continues to climb. In the mid-1960's ospreys produced about 0.01 young per nest. Today, remarkably they raise more than one young per nest and the fledgling rate continues to climb as the levels of DDT decline. By this symposium we celebrate the recovery of the osprey, the return of the peregrine falcon as a breeding bird in the Northeast and the removal of the bald eagle from the endangered species list.

In 1967 the Environmental Defense Fund was organized on Long Island to fight for a cleaner environment and to reduce the threats from DDT. Dr. Wurster was a founding trustee and is still active on its Board of Trustees. EDF has grown to a highly respected national organization and has been in the forefront in finding innovative ways to achieve a cleaner and healthier environment.

On April 25, 1995 we will honor the many contributions that Dr. Wurster has made on the occasion of his retirement from the University.

4/6/95  
Village Times (Times/Bacon)

Leisure

## Symposium honors scientist

On April 25, the Marine Sciences Research Center of the State University at Stony Brook and the Environmental Defense Fund will co-sponsor a symposium to honor Charles F. Wurster Jr., a State University at Stony Brook faculty member for 30 years and a founding trustee of EDF.

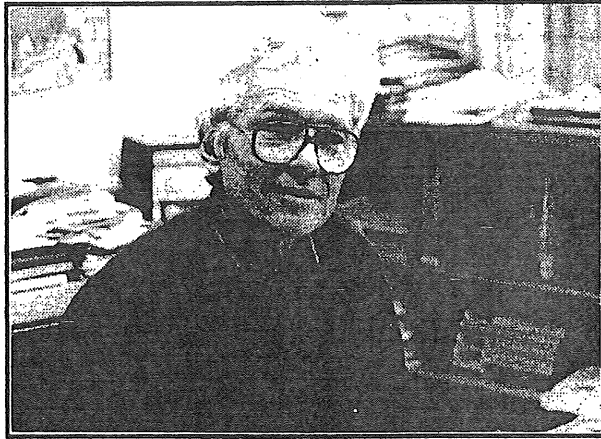
The symposium will include a series of lectures by leading environmentalists, followed by a dinner at Stony Brook's Three Village Inn where William D. Ruckelshaus, past administrator of the US Environmental Protection Agency, will be the featured speaker.

Wurster was a pioneer in what has come to be known as public interest science. His research and public service career with the university and EDF focused on the effects of persistent pesticides on bird species.

Research conducted by him at the university in the 1960s and early 1970s significantly contributed to the banning of DDT in 1972 by EPA administrator Ruckelshaus and the return from near extinction of the osprey on Long Island, and the removal of the bald eagle from the endangered species list this past year.

During his teaching career at Stony Brook, Wurster used his experiences to develop significant and highly popular undergraduate and graduate courses in environmental toxicology, environmental problems and solutions.

EDF was founded on Long Island in the late 1960s with early offices located above the Stony Brook post office and later in a rented farmhouse in East



**CHARLES WURSTER, who was instrumental in getting DDT banned, will be honored at a symposium on April 25.**

Setauket. It has grown, under the guidance of Wurster and others, into one of the most important environmental advocacy groups in the United States, representing 250,000 members.

The fee for the afternoon program is \$5 and for the dinner is \$35. The deadline for reservations is April 11. For reservations to the symposium or dinner, call Gina Garten at 632-8781.

The DDT Story:  
EDF and the Return of  
our Endangered Birds

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*A Symposium*

*in honor of*

*Charles F Wurster*

Celebrating His Enduring Contributions  
to  
An Environmental Success Story

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**Afternoon Program**

25 April 1995  
2:00 pm

Endeavour Hall 120  
Marine Sciences Research Center,  
State University of New York  
at Stony Brook

**Organizing Committee**

*Malcolm J Bowman*  
co-chair – MSRC

*Art Cooley*  
co-chair – EDF

*Trudy M Bell*

*Albert D Carlson*

*J Kirk Cochran*

*Frank C Erk*

*Gina Gartin*

*Gil Hanson*

*Jeff Levinton*

*Harvard Lyman*

*Lori J Palmer*

*Dennis Puleston*

*Jeri Schoof*

*Rosemary Smolker*

*Norma Watson*

*Sponsored by*

Marine Sciences Research Center  
State University of New York at Stony Brook

*and the*

Environmental Defense Fund

### **Charles F Wurster**

Rachel Carson's 1962 book, *Silent Spring*, eloquently called attention to the potential danger of DDT and other chlorinated hydrocarbons to the environment. In 1965, a young scientist, Charles F Wurster, joined the Department of Biology at the State University of New York at Stony Brook and began a life-long career of teaching and research on the effects of pesticides in living organisms. His demonstration of the undesirable effects of pesticides was essential to the eventual banning of DDT. Because of that ban, a number of endangered species of birds, including the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, brown pelican, and the osprey have begun to return to healthy populations levels.

Dr Wurster not only understood and contributed substantially to the scientific literature on the effects of DDT, but also was able to translate that literature effectively in the legal challenges that led to the DDT ban. The first court challenge took place in Riverhead, NY in 1966. That lawsuit prompted the Suffolk County Legislature to ban DDT even before the court handed down its decision. Further challenges that occurred in 1967 in Michigan stopped the use of DDT and dieldrin, which were polluting Lake Michigan. A 1968 adjudicatory hearing in Wisconsin on the effects of DDT led to a state-wide ban. Finally, in 1972, EPA Administrator William D Ruckelshaus banned DDT nationwide. It is for Dr Wurster's outstanding contributions to all these efforts that we honor him.

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### **Afternoon Program**

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#### **2:00 *Welcoming Remarks***

**J Kirk Cochran**

Acting Dean and Director  
Marine Sciences Research Center

#### ***Introductions***

**Arthur P Cooley**

Trustee  
Environmental Defense Fund

#### **2:15 *The Effects of DDT and the Recovery After the Ban***

**Ian C T Nisbet,**

Environmental Consultant  
I C T Nisbet and Company, Inc.

#### **3:00 *The Return of Long Island's Ospreys***

**Michael S Scheibel,**

Senior Wildlife Biologist  
NYS Department of  
Environmental Conservation

#### **3:25 *Presentations***

#### **3:30 *Coffee Break***

#### **4:00 *Presentations***

#### **4:15 *Saving Imperiled Wildlife: The Challenge Ahead***

**Michael J Bean**

Chair, Wildlife Program  
Environmental Defense Fund

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### **The Robert E Smolker Lectures**

The Robert E Smolker Memorial Lectures in Conservation and the Environment were established by the Department of Ecology and Evolution to commemorate Dr Smolker's many contributions to conservation and environmental protection, and his role in the founding of the Environmental Defense Fund. This afternoon's lectures, in conjunction with the Department of Ecology and Evolution, are designated The Robert E Smolker Memorial Lectures, and are dedicated to Charles F Wurster.

Past lecturers have included Daniel Janzen, MacArthur Fellow and founder of Guanacaste National Park in Costa Rica, Patricia Wright, MacArthur Fellow and Director of the Institute for the Conservation of Tropical Environments at Stony Brook, and Michael Oppenheimer, Senior Scientist of the Environmental Defense Fund. The speakers today, as outstanding scientists who have made a difference in preserving and restoring our environment, carry on the tradition of the Robert E Smolker Lectures.

Dr Smolker received his doctorate from the University of Chicago, and was a member of the biological sciences faculty at the State University of New York at Stony Brook from 1959 until his death in 1985. Present at today's lectures are Dr Smolker's widow, Mrs Rosemary Smolker, who served as managing editor of *The Quarterly Review of Biology* for 25 years, and his daughter, Dr Rachel Smolker, who is a leading researcher in the vocalization and social structure of dolphins.