

American Fisheries Society Genetics Section Hall of Excellence



Dr. James E. Wright

Dr. James E. Wright was one of the founders of fish genetics research and education in North America. The work of Jim and his students combined classical chromosome studies with allozyme inheritance and helped shape our understanding of the salmonid genome. His work is relevant today in the era of genomics as researchers continue to study genomics and transmission genetics in polyploidy salmonid fishes. A native of Deepstep, Georgia, he joined Pennsylvania State University in 1949 to teach and conduct research on fish and corn genetics. Often with support from National Science Foundation grants, Jim made important and unexpected discoveries about differences in inheritance patterns between male and female trout. During his career, he served as president and vice president of the American Genetic Association, as a National Institutes of Health committee member, and as a consultant geneticist to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. He retired in 1983 and continued research on salmon, trout and char as a Penn State professor emeritus of genetics.

Elected into the Genetics Section, Hall of Excellence, 2014