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Frederick Baxendale (1949–2021)

FREDERICK “FRED” PAUL BAXENDALE, 72, of Lincoln, Nebraska, passed away Thursday, 30 September 2021. He was born on 10 April 1949 to Ralph and Inez (Thrasher) Baxendale in Rochester, NY. After graduating from Williamson Central High School, he served in the United States Air Force Air Weather Service from 1969 to 1973. He received an A.S. in Mathematics and Science from Finger Lakes Community College in 1975, and a B.S. in Entomology from Cornell University in 1977. He received both his M.S in Entomology (1980) and his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University in 1983, majoring in Entomology.

Fred was a member of the faculty at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL) Department of Entomology from 1984 until he retired in 2018 as Professor Emeritus. Fred was an internationally recognized expert on turf insects. He conducted research on insects, both in bluegrass and buffalograss turf. His lab identified and conducted research

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on buffalograss mealybugs and the western chinch bug, *Blissus occidentuus*, previously unstudied pests of buffalograss. He was the advisor and mentor for many graduate students at UNL. He conducted an active extension program, initially covering agronomic, horticultural, and urban pests and later specializing in horticultural insects. He served as Interim Entomology Department Head, 2005–2006, and Director of Forensic Science, 2013–2014. He enjoyed international travel, including a sabbatical leave he took to New Zealand, teaching horticultural entomology in China, leading a UNL Education Abroad trip with students to Costa Rica, and attending conferences in Australia.

Fred was a mentor, colleague, and friend. He led by example. He generously shared his knowledge, expertise, time, and talent with his students. During his tenure, he had a far-reaching impact on students, directly advising graduate students, sharing his passion for insects with our undergraduate students, mentoring postdocs, and serving on numerous graduate student committees.

Fred was also an outstanding colleague, and he committed to the success of every member of the team. No matter how busy he was, he would always take the time to listen and mentor. That was just the kind of person that Fred was: when he was called upon, you could always count on him.

Fred received many awards for community service and service to the profession, including being named an Honorary Member of the Entomological Society of America in 2014. He served as 2012 President of ESA's North Central Branch (NCB). His accomplishments were recognized by a variety of professional groups, and he was honored with the 2008 ESA Distinguished Achievement Award in Extension, the 2008 NCB Distinguished Achievement Award in Extension, the 2007 NASULGC Excellence in Extension Award (North Central Region), the 1998 ESA Recognition Award in Urban Entomology, the 1995 Gamma Sigma Delta Nebraska Chapter's Extension Award of Merit, and many others. He was the author of many scientific papers. In Nebraska, he was well known as a panel member of *Backyard Farmer*, a live television show on PBS, and he was a popular presenter at many events such as UNL's Bug Bash and the Spring Creek Audubon Center's annual Twilight in the Tall Grass celebration in Denton, Nebraska.

Family was one of the most important parts in Fred's life. He loved teaching his children and grandchildren all about "nature's wondrous pageantry." He supported all things Nebraska, especially football Saturdays. Afternoon bike rides, nature walks, and cheering on his grandchildren were some of his favorite activities. Fred was a Renaissance man: passionate about insects, an avid follower of the weather, and a birdwatcher. He was an enthusiastic gardener, raising flowers, fruits, and vegetables in his large gardens. As a beekeeper, he produced wonderful honey. Fred also held a pilot's license for small aircraft. He was known for his expertise at the barbecue grill, including his wonderful barbecued chicken.

Fred is survived by his children; Heather and husband Brian Bohling and Michael Baxendale, along with their mother Linda Hill; Michael Brazington, Steven Stump, and Kaylee Baxendale, along their mother Joan Baxendale; grandchildren; Michaela, Colby, Tristan, Sasha, Sophie, Austin, Tyler, Madison, and Olivia; great-grandchildren, Zoey, Kieran, Zyllis, Thomas, and Evelyn; his brother William and wife Elizabeth; and nephew, Thomas Baxendale.

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