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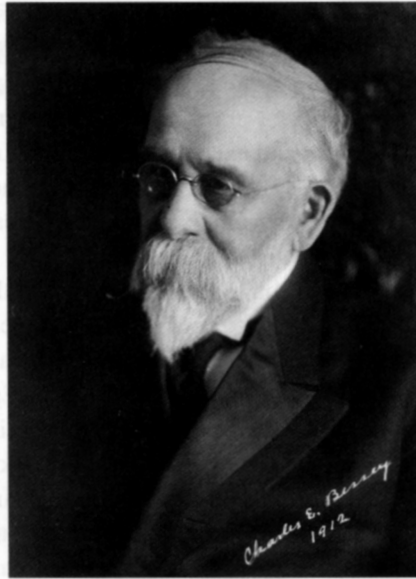


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Charles E. Bessey, 1912.

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ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHARLES E. BESSEY AWARD

The Center for Great Plains Studies is pleased to announce the establishment of the Charles E. Bessey Award for the best paper in the *natural sciences* published in each volume of *Great Plains Research*. The Leslie Hewes Award will now be presented for the best paper in the social sciences in each volume of GPR. The first winner of the Charles E. Bessey Award is "Recent Biodiversity Patterns in the Great Plains: Implications for Restoration and Management" written by Carolyn Hull Sieg, Curtis H. Flather, and Stephen McCanny in Volume 9 (2), the special issue on Great Plains grasslands. This annual award includes a cash stipend of \$250. We gratefully acknowledge the donation of this cash award by the authors to help graduate students publish in *Great Plains Research*.

Charles E. Bessey was a world-reknown Professor of Botany at the University of Nebraska from 1884 until his death in 1915. He was born in Milton, Ohio, on 21 May 1845, and studied botany at Michigan Agricultural College (B.S., M.S.). He received his Ph.D. in botany from the University of

Iowa in 1879. He also studied botany at Harvard University with Asa Gray, the most reknown American botanist at the time. After working at Iowa State (1870-84), where he was both Professor of Botany and Acting Chancellor (1882), he came to Nebraska. At Nebraska, he was known as an outstanding teacher, skilled administrator, and exceptional botanist. In 1885 Bessey was appointed scientist of the State Board of Agriculture. The Herbarium at the University of Nebraska State Museum is named after Bessey in recognition of his contributions to botany in the Great Plains and the United States. Bessey wrote the first textbook on plant morphology in the United States—the first of a series of “Bessey’s textbooks” and botanical reference books that drew students from all over the US to the University and helped form the University’s reputation as a major scientific institution. Establishing a forest reserve in the central-western prairies was Bessey’s passion; in this he left a unique botanical legacy in the Sand Hills: the Nebraska National Forest. Both his scholarship and his contributions to science in the Great Plains merit recognition and make his name a fitting one for this new award for excellence in the natural sciences in *Great Plains Research*.

LESLIE HEWES AWARD

Great Plains Research is pleased to announce the article by Larry R. Peterson entitled “Is the Family Disappearing? Northern Great Plains vs. National Trends in Family Structure” is the winner of the Leslie Hewes Award for the best paper in social sciences published during the volume year 1999. The annual award includes a cash stipend of \$250. This article was cited in the *Omaha World-Herald* (24 April 2000) in an editorial on marriage and the family.

***GREAT PLAINS RESEARCH* JUNIOR ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AWARDS**

Great Plains Research presented a \$100 first place award for distinguished scholastic research on a natural or social sciences topic in the Great Plains to Kathryn Alt of Hildreth Public School at the Nebraska Academy of Sciences’ Junior Academy of Sciences meeting on 28 April 2000. Her paper was entitled “Identifying Compounds in Fingernail Polish Remover Responsible for Removing Ink Stains.” Michelle A. Zywiec of Central City High School received a \$50 honorable mention for her paper, “Aloe Vera: The Healing Plant?” Both Hildreth Public School and Central City High School will receive a complimentary one-year subscription to *Great Plains Research*.