

IN MEMORIAM

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The *Journal of Plant Growth Regulation* is sorry to announce that Judith Gerow Croxdale, the Editor-in-Chief, died unexpectedly of a heart attack on June 14, 2002, while riding her bicycle in Madison, Wisconsin.

Judy was born August 27, 1941 and spent her childhood in Modesto, California. She originally began a major in English at the University of Colorado, but after her divorce in 1966, she and her young son Leyton moved back to California. She enrolled at UC-Berkeley for her undergraduate studies, and after a brief stint at UC-Davis for graduate school, moved back to Berkeley for the Ph.D. degree. She did her thesis research on the fern *Davallia* under the direction of Prof. Don Kaplan. From there, she took an academic position at Virginia State University. However, most of her academic career was at the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she started as an Assistant Professor in 1979 and went through the ranks of Associate and then Full Professor. While at UW-Madison, her research career focused mainly on pattern formation in plants, particularly trichome and stomata arrangement, but she also studied the effects of microgravity on plants. Judy's research has been published in a number of leading biology journals.

Judy was invited to be Editor-in-Chief in 1999, and in that 3-year time period made major changes to the *Journal of Plant Growth Regulation*; one of the

most significant was the production of thematically driven issues. Her vision of the journal was to broaden its scope rather than narrow it. In her 2000 message as Incoming Editor, she wrote "My desire for a holistic perspective is idealistic and some might say harks back to the 19th century, but I believe it is essential as scientific research becomes increasingly compartmentalized with each passing year. It is important for us to surface from our microcosm of private inquiry and gaze again at the horizon to assess where we are." This statement is quintessentially Judy Croxdale. She was dedicated to teaching and spent considerable time in University service. One of her passions was the encouragement of young women graduate students and postdoctoral associates who were just beginning their careers in science. A fund "UWF/Croxdale Scholarship Fund" (P.O. Box 8860, Madison, WI 53708) has been established to help women at this stage in their research careers. Judy did not confine her support solely to people in science, however. She advocated the rights of bicyclists in Madison, and was very active in her community. Perhaps some may say idealism is dead, but what made Judy a winner was her commitment to principles, especially in an era when many look only to their private microcosms. She will be missed.

Ann M. Hirsch