

Wood Award

The purpose of this award, named in honor of Dr. Albert E. Wood, is to support student research that involves museum or university vertebrate fossil or natural history collections. Proposals must be for collection-based work on some aspect of vertebrate evolution, with special attention given to those that greatly enhance the value of fossil material already residing in collections.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Applicant must be current SVP members. **You will not be able to apply for the award unless your membership is current in the system.**
- Both graduate and undergraduate students may apply.

HOW TO APPLY

Please utilize the SVP online award submission system to apply. **Any materials sent by e-mail, fax or mail will NOT be reviewed.** Once you click "submit" the award application is complete so be sure to double check that all fields and uploads are exactly as you wish **BEFORE clicking "submit"**. Be sure to name all uploaded documents with your name and a description of the attachment (i.e. John Smith Photo). Have the following items ready when you submit your application:

- Description of the project (3000 character limit, includes ALL characters (letters, numbers, special hidden characters, spaces; generally, the use of figures and inclusion of citations are discouraged).
- Written Statement (3000 character limit, includes ALL characters (letters, numbers, special hidden characters, spaces) - how this award would contribute to the success of your collection-based work
- Specific museums that will be visited using this award and the amount of time at each museum (750 character limit)
- Budget with major categories defining how the prize will be utilized.
- Nominee photo

The 2020 awards application process is now closed.

QUESTIONS?

Kevin Seymour, Chair, Wood Award Panel, kevins@rom.on.ca

Learn more about Albert E. Wood

Albert Elmer Wood was born on September 22, 1910, on the Cape May Peninsula of New Jersey, the youngest of four brothers. He was raised in a family steeped in three generations of military tradition, where intellectual achievement and public service were taken for granted, and where both parents had long, active and varied professional careers.

He majored in geology at Princeton, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa in 1930. His undergraduate thesis was a general review of rodent taxonomy and evolution. With W.K. Gregory as his thesis advisor, Wood completed his PhD in 1934 from Columbia University, and then received a Cutting Travelling Fellowship which allowed him to visit and examine important museum and university collections of fossil rodents in the United States and Europe. The Fellowship also funded fieldwork at various early and mid-Tertiary fossil vertebrate localities in the western United States.

Wood worked as a civilian geologist with the United States Army Corps of Engineers from 1936-1941. He served in the United States Army during World War II. After his final discharge from active duty in 1946, he accepted a teaching position at Amherst College, where he spent the remainder of his academic career. A number of Wood's students went on to become professional vertebrate paleontologists including Craig Black, Dan Guthrie, John Storer, Jay Wilson, John Walhert, Fred Szalay and Wood's own son, Roger Wood, a turtle paleontologist.

Unofficially, Wood also served as curator of the vertebrate paleontological collections of Amherst College's Pratt Museum of Geology, which included the famous "fossil bird" footprints. Among his notable acquisitions were the type specimen of *Franimys amherstensis*, the oldest known rodent skeleton, and an extensive assemblage of material from the type locality for the Lysite fauna.

Wood was a charter member of the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology. He served as the society's Secretary/Treasurer (1958 and 1959), Vice President (1960), and President (1961). Wood was elected an Honorary Member in 1977 and in 1998 was awarded the Romer-Simpson Medal, the Society's highest award.

Bibliography taken from:

Wood, Roger. (1989) Biography of Albert Elmer Wood, *Papers on Fossil Rodents: In Honor of Albert Elmer Wood*, No. 33 Science Series, Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County.