



Eleanor Tenney

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Eleanor Tenney, a long time member of the Academy and a former Patrick Henry High School teacher, died September 30, 1991 at her home in Richmond. Born in West Virginia, Tenney graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan with a degree in biology in 1950. She also earned a Master's degree in Education from West Virginia University. She moved to Hanover in 1957 as a teacher for Montpelier High School and transferred to Patrick Henry High School when it opened in 1959. She remained at Patrick Henry until taking early retirement five years ago. During her time at Patrick Henry, she encouraged students to pursue their interests in science and photography.

Eleanor Tenney was well known for her involvement in science. She was an honorary member of the University of Richmond Chapter of Beta Beta Beta National Honor Society in Biology. She was also a member of Alpha Delta Kappa, Beta Chapter, a national honorary society for women educators. Eleanor was a member of the Virginia Academy of Science, and at the time of her death was serving on the board for the Virginia Junior Academy of Science.

She received distinguished service awards from the Academy of Science twice and has also been recognized by Westinghouse Science Foundation for her work with the Westinghouse Science Search. She was cited by the Virginia Science and Humanities Symposium for her work with students, and was cited for having served as a sponsor for more years than any other person in the State.

In the summer of 1966, she enrolled in a pteridology course at Mountain Lake Biological Station. Her interest was sparked by an unusual freshwater fern, *Marsilea vestita*. Intrigued by the organism, she encouraged an interested student to pursue an independent research project. In the spring of 1967, the student received the Botany Award at VJAS. Each successive year, for twenty-one years, an independent research project has been presented at VJAS on *Marsilea vestita*. The organism has become synonymous with her name and with quality student projects.

Since 1959, she individually sponsored over 75 students at the Academy, and assisted with the projects of hundreds more. She was selected as a VJAS's Outstanding Teacher, served on the VJAS Committee, and photographically recorded the history of the Academy with her ever present camera.

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