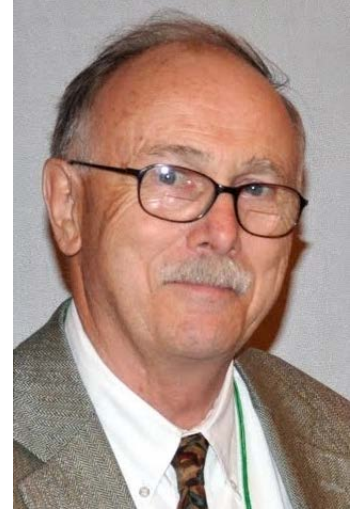


Emery T. Cleaves (1936 - 2018)

Dr. Emery T. Cleaves, a geologist who spent his entire career with the Maryland Geological Survey, including a long period as its director, died February 4, 2018 from complications of dementia at the Broadmead retirement community in Cockeysville, Maryland. He was 81.



Emery Taylor Cleaves was the son of Arthur Baily Cleaves, a professor of engineering and geology at St. Louis University, and Kathryn Taylor Cleaves, a homemaker. He was born in Easton, Pa., and raised in St. Louis.

After graduating in 1954 from Country Day School in St. Louis, he obtained a bachelor's degree in geology in 1958 from Harvard College. He decided to become a geologist in the spring of his freshman year at Harvard.

In a biographical note, Dr. Cleaves wrote, "I was trying to decide what to major in and was considering political science or possibly English, and not giving much thought to geology." One day, a professor told him of a geomorphology professor who was looking for a field assistant for a summer project in the Rio Grande River Basin and the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range north of Santa Fe, N.M.

The idea "piqued my interest," Dr. Cleaves wrote, and he was offered the position.

"It was a wonderful two months in the field, exposed to the dry arid basin of the Rio Grande River and its geology and also the rugged 10,000-foot high mountains and ridges and the geology of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains," he wrote.

"During the day, he never saw another person," said his wife of 57 years, the former Edith "Edie" Baldwin. She said during that summer work "he carried two canteens of water, one for the morning, and the other for the afternoon.

"He worked in all kinds of weather, and there was no shade. He had to squat down during thunderstorms so he wasn't the tallest thing and be hit by lightning," she said. "He said he never felt frightened or anxious while mapping the geology. He just loved it. "

The experience, he wrote, convinced him that "geology was for me."

He and his future wife met when they were camp counselors in 1958 in Maine.

He obtained a master's degree in 1964 and his doctorate in 1973, both in physical geography, from the Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Cleaves began working for the Maryland Geological Survey in 1963, and nine years later was promoted to deputy director. He was named director in 1992 by Gov. William Donald Schaefer. Dr. Cleaves retired from the Geological Survey in 2007 with a tenure of 15 years as State Geologist and 44 years working for the Geological Survey.

Dr. Cleaves was fascinated by geologic mapping, watersheds, streams, sediment, erosion and water quality.

He was a supporter of federal funding for stream gauges which monitor the flow of water, and was an early supporter of the establishment and implementation of the Maryland Water Monitoring Council.

It is difficult to numerate how many lives Dr. Cleaves touched, but there were many. It wasn't uncommon to see Dr. Cleaves, dressed in an elbow-patched sport coat and tie, sitting beside Pond Branch or Baisman Run in Oregon Ridge Park. Many younger geologists shared a great respect for the man in the tweed elbow-patched jacket who loved water and schist.

Dr. Cleaves was a prolific author and co-author of papers devoted to geology, hydrology and mineral resources. He was also known for his highly detailed, hand-made drawings which accompanied them.

Dr. Cleaves was very active in the Association of American State Geologists (AASG). He attended liaison meetings regularly, served as Historian in 1998 and 1999. He served as Vice President in 2000, President Elect in 2001, and President in 2002. Later, Dr. Cleaves also received its Distinguished Service Award.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, Arthur B. "Tad" Cleaves of Baltimore and Jonathan T. Cleaves of Hancock, N.C.; two daughters, Kathryn M. Cleaves of Alexandria, Va. and Juliet C. Brundige of Cary, N.C.; and six grandchildren.