

The Legacy of Bramble and Byrnes

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In the summer of 1953, Dr. William C. Bramble and graduate student (Dr. to be) W. Richard Byrnes established a cooperative research project with Pennsylvania Electric Company and Pennsylvania Game Commission on Game Lands 33 west of State College, Pennsylvania. The project, conceived by Hyland Johns, Asplundh Tree Expert Co., was to determine the effects of herbicides on game food and habitat, game use of the right-of-way, and the prospect of establishing a stable, low-growing plant cover. Herbicide use was in its infancy at this time. From 1953 to the present, in an array of studies, almost anything that used the right-of-way has been documented, counted, or measured in some fashion, and usually compared with the adjacent undisturbed oak-hickory forest. The resulting body of information has been published in a number of sources. A bibliography of these two men and their association with Game Lands 33 for nearly 50 years is presented here to confirm the legacy that has been passed on to rights-of-way managers as well as to recognize the unique accomplishment of two special individuals.

That this project has maintained the continuity it has makes it unique. In the early 1960s Dr. Bramble became the head of the Department of Forestry and Conservation at Purdue University. A few years later Dr. Byrnes joined the faculty at Purdue; later to also become the department head. For nearly four decades they have maintained the data collection while being physically located nearly 600 miles away.

This bibliography, while extensive, is not assumed to be all-inclusive and its accuracy is not guaranteed. The authors welcome additions and corrections to these references.

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