

Dr. Alfred F. Satterthwait
President — 1929
By Brad Cook

Nineteen twenty-nine was a very big year for the St. Louis Writers Guild. An organization had formed; no longer were a few writers just getting together on Sunday evenings to review each other's work. Tennessee Williams was a member, although he was still going by the name Thomas. The *St. Louis Globe Democrat* devoted two whole pages and a column further in to an article on the Guild and its members.

The man at the helm during this great moment in SLWG's history was an entomologist named Dr. Alfred Fellenberg Satterthwait. He was an esteemed member of the U.S. Bureau of Entomology and a collection of his writings is stored at the Smithsonian Institution Archives. He wrote several books, but mostly he wrote about the subject that drove his life's ambitions, the fascinating world of insects.

No stranger to community leadership, Dr. Alfred F. Satterthwait in 1920 founded the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, or the "WGNSS" as it became known. He provided his office for members to meet in, much the same way that the Writers Guild had begun. In 1930 he helped start the *Nature Notes Journal*, for which he contributed many articles on various insect topics. Both the Journal and the Nature Study Society still thrive to this day. He was later elected President of the American Nature Study Society in 1931, and became the chairman of the St. Louis Academy of Science that same year.

Satterthwait was born in 1897, and lived a great deal of his life in Webster Groves, Missouri before finally moving to Urbana, Illinois in 1936. The University of Illinois at Champagne-Urbana still maintains his books on the shelves of their library.

His wife, Elizabeth Allen Satterthwait, was a poet who had a passion for ornithology. She and her husband were both distinguished members of the Wilson Ornithology Club and she wrote many articles on birds for the *Nature Notes Journal*. Her poem, *A Gentle Heart*, was published in 1936.

Books by Dr. Alfred F. Satterthwait

False Cabbage Aphis: (*Aphis pseudo-brassicoe* Davis), by JJ Davis and Alfred F. Satterthwait, published in 1916.

Chinch Bug and its Control, by J. R. Horton and Alfred F. Satterthwait, published in 1922.

How to Control Billbugs Destructive to Cereal and Forage Crops, by Alfred F. Satterthwait, first published in 1919 and again in 1932.