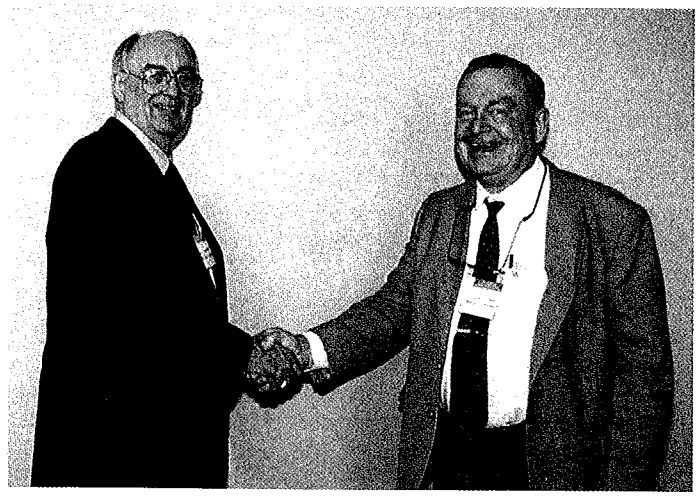
DISTINGUISHED COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY SCIENTIST AWARD: 2000

THOMAS E. HEMMERLY, PHD

Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, Tennessee

Dr. Thomas (Tom) Hemmerly was recently honored with the 2000 Tennessee Academy of Science Distinguished University Scientist Award. The award was established in 1996 by the Tennessee Academy of Science as a means of recognizing those individuals who have made significant contributions to both science teaching and particularly academic research in Tennessee, to the extent that both the quality of life and intellectual growth in Tennessee have been improved.

Hemmerly, who earned his PhD from Vanderbilt University, has been a member of the Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) Biology Faculty since 1964, and a member of the Tennessee Academy of Science since 1958. While he has numerous publications and research interests, he is best known for his research relating to the understanding of *Echinacea tenneseensis* (the Tennessee coneflower). The Tennessee coneflower is a rare species found in cedar glades. Hemmerly has worked to increase understanding leading to the preservation of this native species, and for twenty years has been a guide and speaker at the annual Cedars of Lebanon Wildflower Pilgrimage. Dr. Hemmerly also has published papers on the ecology of mistletoe, and the plant ecology of the Snail Shell Cave system. He has maintained an interest in economic botany and has research relating to ginseng and Paulownia. Dr. Hemmerly has been a major professor to several graduate students, written laboratory manuals, and has served as a consultant with public and private entities.



Dr. Tom Hemmerly (left) and Dr. David J. Wilson, Academy President

Hemmerly is the author of two wildflower guides: *Wildflowers of the Central South,* published by Vanderbilt University Press in 1990, and *Appalachian wildflowers: An ecological guide to flowering plants from Quebec to Georgia,* published by the University of Georgia Press in 2000. These books contain color pictures, information on habitat, and medicinal properties.