Ruth Patrick

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- Ruth Patrick had a significant impact in scientific community because of her work with diatoms and monitoring freshwater ecosystems. Most notable was her work and experimentation studying the formation of diatom communities, and the factors that impacted that formation such as invasion rate and size of the species pool or area. She designed a series of experiments ext decade. to explore the impact of these factors. She then examined the structure of diatom communities both in the United States and in the Caribbean Islands and found that these communities had similar structure shifts to the ones predicted by her experiments.
 - Patrick, Ruth. "The Formation and Maintenance of Benthic Diatom Communities." ٠ Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, vol. 120, no. 6, 1976, pp. 475–84. JSTOR, http://www.jstor.org/stable/986600. Accessed 2 Mar. 2024.
- Ruth Patrick was interested in science from a young age, when she collected anything from living organisms such as worms and plants to non-living things such as rocks. She receiver her PhD from the University of Virginia before working with the Academy of Natural Sciences as a volunteer.

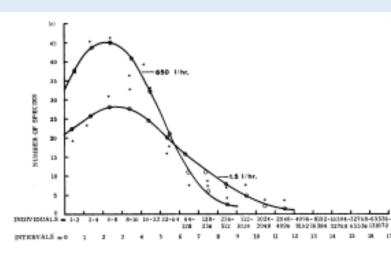


FIG. 4. Effects of invasion on structure of truncated normal curve, Darby Creek, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania,



FIG. 2. Upper: Early stage of community development. Lower: Late stage of community development.

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I have travelled back to 1947 to interview Ruth Patrick as she reflects on her work and the founding of the Limnology Department at the Academy of Natural Sciences. Ruth states that she "has much more work to do, but [she has] a strong vision for the future of science and its role in protecting our environment."

Ruth began as a volunteer curator with the Academy of Natural Sciences in 1933. According to Ruth, her work "led to a revival of diatom-focused research" and she "could not be more pleased that [her] work is having such an impact on the ecological community."

Although Ruth was not fully aware of it at the time of her interview, her work with diatoms will have lasting impacts and she is set to receive numerous awards and honors for what will continue to be her life's work. Her legacy will live on through the Ruth Patrick award, which was formed in 1998.

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