

Presidential Biography
L. George Wilson

President of ASHS, 2002–2003
North Carolina State University, Raleigh



L. George Wilson (1938–)

President of ASHS	2002–03
ASHS Fellow	1992
BS, Cornell University	1961
MS, Washington State University	1963
PhD, Michigan State University	1969

George Wilson is the fourth of five sons and the seventh of 10 children whose parents were fruit, vegetable, and dairy farmers along the shores of Lake Ontario in Niagara County, New York. His produce marketing experiences eventually led to his choice of horticultural science as a career—starting with his BS in pomology from Cornell University in 1961, followed by an MS in horticulture at Washington State University in 1963.

Wilson's first job was as research associate in plant physiology with the Division of Tropical Research of United Fruit Company in La Lima, Honduras. He took a leave of absence to earn his PhD in postharvest horticulture from Michigan State University (1969), then returned to the Division of Tropical Research as a research plant physiologist. He worked on several tropical crops, but focused mostly on postharvest handling of bananas and physiology of African oil palm.

After nine years in the tropics, Wilson joined the horticultural science faculty at North Carolina State University in 1975 as associate professor and sweetpotato, potato, and postharvest extension specialist. He was promoted to professor in 1979 and, over the past three decades, was twice assigned to NC State USAID projects in Peru—as extension leader in 1982 and as chief of party in 1991. In 1993 Wilson worked in Bulgaria on a U.S. Dept. of

Agriculture extension project. In 1997 he was appointed coordinator of international programs for the College of Agricultural and Life Science. Since 2002, Wilson has served as vice provost for international affairs.

Wilson has been a member of ASHS since 1961 and was elected president-elect in 2001. He was the first ASHS/AAAS Congressional Science Fellow in 1990 and was elected Fellow of the Society in 1992. In 1978–80 he chaired the International Affairs Committee, which led to the formation of the ASHS International Division. Wilson served as vice president of the Extension Division in 1983–84, and vice president of the International Affairs Division in 1987–88. He has served in numerous other capacities, including; Postharvest, Horticultural Consultants, International Concerns in Horticultural Education working groups, and National Issues, and Tropical Horticulture committees. At last year's International Horticultural Congress, Wilson co-convened the *Horticulture and Emerging Economies* symposium. He is also a member of the Southern Region–ASHS, the International Society for Horticultural Science, and the Interamerican Society for Tropical Horticulture.

George and Claudia, his wife of 41 years, have three children and three grandchildren.