
2008 Eminent Ecologist Award

Michael Rosenzweig

The Eminent Ecologist Award is given to a senior ecologist in recognition of an outstanding body of ecological work or sustained ecological contributions of extraordinary merit. Nominees may be from any country and need not be ESA members. Recipients receive lifetime, active membership in the Society. This year's recipient is Michael Rosenzweig.

Dr. Rosenzweig is one of America's premier scientists and an intellectual giant in the fields of ecology and evolution. In his research, he has created and discovered many of the concepts on population, community, and evolutionary ecology that are included in textbooks, perhaps more than any other person working in these fields. As a scholar, he possesses an encyclopedic knowledge of



ecology's past, present, and future directions. In his teaching, Dr. Rosenzweig provides outstanding lectures and exceptional mentoring. At conclaves and symposia, he stands among a select handful of truly great orators. As a person, he is accessible, warm, and affable. In short, Dr. Rosenzweig is the kind of scientist that most aspire to be but that only a few become.

Dr. Rosenzweig has a unique approach to the world and to the science of ecology. He possesses a wonderful attention to detail but does not lose sight of the context and broader significance of ideas. He places great value on the connections that can be drawn among disparate bodies of thought. These attributes propel him from mere puzzle solver to being the creator of syntheses and general concepts. He is not wedded to ideas, but rather, to the process of hypothetical-deductive science as a means of increasing our understanding of natural processes.

One of Dr. Rosenzweig's greatest assets is his ability to recognize both the shortcomings and opportunities of his and others' past research. He has been and continues to be a professional leader. He has an impressive list of society positions, invited seminars, visiting professorships, and national and international consultancies.

To promote his vision of how to communicate exciting and risky science, Dr. Rosenzweig founded and edits the journal *Evolutionary Ecology*. He also established *Evolutionary Ecology Research*, a similarly successful journal that continues to the present. These and his other contributions have changed and defined the field of evolutionary ecology and greatly contributed to the field of ecology.